



NEWS / A2

Defensor forms new movement to instill Pinoy sense of brotherhood

NEWS / A2

CHEd's committee members on nursing resign en masse

'Palace timed Lim video release for CBCP meet'

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Christian V. Esguerra

THE VIDEOTAPE OF BRIG. GEN. DANILO LIM was released ahead of the two-day plenary assembly of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, which starts today, as part of Malacañang's strategy, two opposition lawmakers said yesterday.

PALACE / A6

METRO / A19

9-year-old masterminds
theft of P50,000 worth
of truck spare parts

SAT. SPECIAL / A3-1

Q & A with Ryan
for sneak preview
of 'Philippine Idol'



GMA: Ceasefire now before peace talks

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERDAY ruled out the resumption of peace talks with communist rebels unless they agreed to an immediate ceasefire nationwide.

"The Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) has shut the door to peace by carrying out violence and aggression against the people while making

GMA / A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, July 8, 2006

★★ 6 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 210 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Rebel 'powerhouse' falls

6 Magdalo officers, 2 civilians seized in QC

By Luige A. del Puerto
and Dona Pazzibugan

THE RAIDERS, ALL wearing bullet-proof vests, struck so swiftly at dawn that it was over in two minutes. Cornered, some of the rebel soldiers—among the country's most wanted fugitives—tried to escape by jumping over a wall only to find other military and police raiders on the other side waiting for them.

In a well-planned attack, police and military agents yesterday captured six Magdalo officers and two civilians, and seized guns, explosives and papers which officials said raised suspicions they might be plotting to bomb the Batasang Pambansa when President Macapagal-Arroyo delivers her State of the Nation Address on July 24.

"These are the powerhouse of the Magdalo group. They are the people going the rounds, the people known for destabilization," newly installed national police chief Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon said.

The successful operation would seem to indicate Ms Arroyo's firm control of two very powerful institutions in the country—the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces.

REBEL / AB



THE TOP BRASS present the media a veritable harvest of "fugitives," junior officers linked to the Oakwood mutiny in 2003. They are from left, 1 Lt. Sonny Sarmiento, 1 Lt. Nathaniel Rabonza, 1 Lt. Angelbert Gay, Navy Lt. Kiram Sadava, 1 Lt. Patricio Bumidang, 2 Lt. Aldrin Baldonado. Front row (from left) PNP chief Oscar Calderon, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga; Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

REM ZAMORA



THE "POWERHOUSE," police call this residence at No. 34 Adler St., Filinvest 2, Quezon City, where key Magdalo members were arrested in a dawn raid on Friday.

Forex reserves hit record \$21B in June

By Doris C. Dumla

THE COUNTRY'S GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES (GIR) reached the \$21-billion mark for the first time in June despite pressures from public sector debt servicing and slower foreign inflows to emerging markets like the Philippines.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

reported yesterday that the Philippines' GIR climbed to an all-time high of \$21.15 billion at end-June from \$20.95 billion at end-May.

Tetangco attributed the higher GIR level to the BSP's foreign exchange operations, income from investments abroad, deposits by the national government of proceeds from project loans and release of collateral

from the redemption of Brady Bonds in May.

The Philippine government bought back \$411 million or 53 percent of the outstanding amount of Brady Bonds—a bitter reminder of the country's debt crisis years.

BSP sources earlier estimated that \$300 million worth of collateral consisting of zero-coupon US Treasury notes had been freed

up in June following the retirement of the bonds.

Taking advantage of the sharp peso appreciation, the Philippine government replicated the debt management task pursued by Latin American countries that had bounced back from their fiscal woes like Brazil, Mexico and Colombia by buying back the bulk of the remaining Brady

FOREX / A10

In this school, lessons spill into toilet

AT THE OVERCROWDED COMMONWEALTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN QUEZON CITY, class size isn't the only issue.

With some 11,900 students enrolled this year alone, teachers struggle to even house the students, cramming them into every available space, including classrooms, bathrooms and garages.

Commonwealth Elementary now has seven buildings with 85 classrooms. These include a bathroom that was converted into a classroom and even lessons being held in corridors.

Ventilation is poor in some rooms and in others, the desks are so close to the windows that the kids get soaked when it rains.

Rooms are filled to bursting, with some classes having more than 70 students. In some cases, three kids share a single desk. Five pupils share a single textbook.

Despite being sandwiched between the Payatas dump site and one of the city's largest shantytowns, this public elementary school is one of the world's most populous grade schools.

The dire situation here has become symbolic of the Philippines' educational system as a whole—too few resources are being used to educate too many students in too little time.

The Department of Education



EDUCATION GOES TO POT. The toilet of the Commonwealth Elem. School in QC with a student population of 11,900 was converted into a classroom.

IN THIS / A4

SAN BONDO

'Nicole' fails to show up, suffers a breakdown

By Volt Contreras

HER FIRST DAY AT THE STAND on Thursday was apparently too traumatic for "Nicole."

The Filipino complainant in the Subic rape case did not show up for yesterday's scheduled continuation of her testimony, forcing the prosecution to seek a postponement of the hearing.

According to her lawyers and her therapist, Nicole was actually prepared to go to the Makati Regional Trial Court but suffered a "breakdown" about an hour before the 1 p.m. proceedings.

They reported her condition to Judge Benjamin Pozon shortly after he banged the gavel and recited an opening prayer.

The defense did not object to the motion for postponement made by Senior State Prosecutor

NICOLE / A10



Bush at 60: Getting older by the minute

WASHINGTON—AFTER months of fretting about getting older, President George W. Bush turned 60 on Thursday.

Bush celebrated his birthday with friends on Tuesday at a White House party on Independence Day and there were not supposed to be any festivities on Thursday. Still, the occasion was expected to be noted in a

BUSH / A10

FORECAST: Luzon and Western Visayas will experience occasional monsoon rains becoming frequent rains over Western Luzon which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

CHEd blamed for nursing mess

Committee members resign en masse

By Alcuin Papa

THE QUALITY OF NURSING GRADUATES AND OF nursing education has dropped because the Commission on Higher Education has surrendered to business and political interests.

This claim was made by the CHEd's Technical Committee on Nursing Education (TCNE), which was formed to give advice to the commission, and whose members resigned en masse yesterday.

In their resignation letter, the committed members said the CHEd "lacks the will to assure quality nursing education."

"We believe that the TCNE and CHEd are divided in their positions on the different nursing education quality issues. We feel that we no longer have the support of the CHEd commissioners and some regional directors in upholding the quality of Philippine nursing education, which is our primordial mission," they said.

Vested interests

They added that instead of acting on their recommendations, CHEd had "buckled down to pressure from vested political and economic interests, sacrificing quality for mediocrity and business interests."

Asked to comment, CHEd Chair Carlito Puno said: "I deny that. We in the commission told them that we must be careful with our decisions. *Huwag sugod nang sugod* (Let us not rush) because these kinds of decisions are specific to a class and have legal implications."

Later, however, Puno admitted that the issue had "political, economic and legal implications [that] should [be considered]."

Beset by problems

The TCNE is chaired by Mar-

lyn E. Lorenzo, director of the Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies.

Its members are Carmelita C. Divinagracia, dean of the University of the East-Ramon Magsaysay Medical Center College of Nursing; Remedios L. Fernandez of the Board of Nursing; Amelia Rosales, chief of nurses at the Makati Medical Center; Zylma Sanchez, formerly with the Philippine Heart Center; Glenda Vargas, dean of the University of Santo Tomas College of Nursing; and Rita Tamse, deputy director for nursing of the Philippine General Hospital.

"Nursing has become one of the most, if not the most, popular courses. But it is beset by ... problems. There is a rapid increase in the number of schools but there is a slow deterioration of the quality," Lorenzo told reporters.

As evidence, she said the passing rate in the nursing board exams had hovered below 50 percent for the past few years. She said she expected the result of the last board exam, now mired in a leakage controversy, to be the same.

'Flying deans'

Divinagracia said a survey conducted three years ago revealed a number of unqualified nursing school deans.

She said some were "flying deans," meaning they were serving as deans and/or faculty members in more than one school.

"Definitely, this affects the edu-

cation system of a school," Divinagracia said.

The result is that new graduates fail to gain acceptance in even local hospitals.

There were about 100,000 nursing graduates last year, produced by some 470 nursing schools nationwide.

"There is pressure from school owners for us to bring down standards," Lorenzo said. "You cannot

solve a problem with another problem. The solution is to reduce the number of schools, not lower standards."

The TCNE members also said they had recommended, without success, the restoration of the abolished extra year for nursing, making it a five-year course again.

They said this was necessary to make Filipino nurses competitive

with their counterparts from India and China.

Puno said it was not only the quality of nursing education that had waned.

"I am the first to admit that the quality of tertiary education has gone down in general, including nursing. This is due to the very poor skills of students in English, science and math," he said.

Puno also said that if there

should be blame, part of it should fall on the TCNE members "who had been there for the last four or five years" and were "part of policymaking."

He said resignation was not the way to deal with the problems besetting the system.

"If they want to convince us, they should ... present hard facts and statistics and argue with us," Puno said.

We don't have the numbers, opposition leader in House admits

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE OPPOSITION DOESN'T HAVE the numbers to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro, a stalwart of the Nationalist People's Coalition and a nephew of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, said the House minority lacked warm bodies to propel the rehashed impeachment case to the Senate for trial.

"Not all NPC members who signed the impeachment complaint last year will do the same this year," Teodoro told the Inquirer yesterday.

Last year, eight House members belonging to the NPC wing led by House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, were in the forefront of the

opposition's move to unseat Ms Arroyo over allegations she cheated in the 2004 polls.

Escudero was staunchly supported by Reps. Darlene Antonino-Custodio, Rodolfo Plaza, Joseph Santiago, Antonio Serapio, Luis Asistio, Ruy Lopez and Arthur Pingoy.

However, Serapio and Asistio were no-shows when the plenary junked the impeachment case on Sept. 5.

The rest of the 40 NPC members in the House voted with the majority to throw out the three impeachment complaints on a technicality.

Teodoro said he had been informed that Pingoy would no longer join the revived impeachment drive.

Although on paper the House minority is only composed of 28 House

members, a total of 51 congressmen subsequently voted to impeach Ms Arroyo, 28 shy of the required 79 signatures.

Politically motivated

Lawyer Romeo Macalintal pointed to the weaknesses of the four impeachment complaints filed last week against Ms Arroyo.

Macalintal is Ms Arroyo's impeachment counsel.

"These cases are politically motivated, have no factual or legal basis, and should be dismissed outright by the House," he said in recent a speech before members of the group "Mahal Ko, Bayan Ko" at the Manila Polo Club in Forbes Park, Makati.

Peggy Vera, one of the group's leaders, said their members were not

pro-Arroyo.

They were, however, anti-impeachment because "pursuing another impeachment case against the President would simply worsen the Filipino's economic and political miseries."

Effects of crisis

Vera said the group had been holding forums so members could better understand the implications of the country's continuing political crisis.

She said she hoped politicians could get their act together and begin solving the problems of the country instead of engaging in destructive politics.

"Like a vagrant, these cases have no visible means of legal and factual support," Macalintal said in his speech.

Chavit tells Erap: I'm not behind Joelle

ILOCOS SUR GOV LUIS "CHAVIT" Singson yesterday denied that he had a hand in the filing of charges against ousted President Joseph Estrada by former beauty queen Joelle Pelaez.

Estrada had claimed that Pelaez was being manipulated by Singson, a former buddy whose "jueteng" exposé led to his impeachment trial and eventual downfall.

According to Singson, Pelaez appears to be smart and knows that for the case to prosper it must be backed up with sufficient hard evidence such as bank records and other official documents.

"With these incontrovertible evidence on hand, Ms. Pelaez doesn't need to be manipulated to file charges against a man of

Erap's stature and in the process expose herself to harassment and unsavory speculations," Singson said in a statement.

Singson also deplored Estrada's penchant for finger-pointing and blame-throwing to ward off the negative media mileage that Pelaez's complaint has generated.

Asked what message he would

like to send to his erstwhile friend, Singson quickly responded, "For a change, come to grips with the truth. Quit acting innocent and accept the fact that reality has finally caught up with you."

Singson also sought to clarify that Estrada's optimism on his acquittal from plunder charges was a little bit premature.

Defensor launches Madyaas Confederacy, a 'neo-con' group

By Cynthia D. Balana

PRESIDENTIAL CHIEF OF STAFF MICHAEL Defensor launched yesterday a new group that would advocate for peace and promote programs to strengthen the Filipino national identity and love of country.

Called the Madyaas Confederacy, the group was named after the first formal political organization, formed in Panay by 10 Bornean datus who migrated to the Philippines in the early 13th century.

Defensor led the new members in simple oath-taking rites in San Juan. He said the Madyaas symbolized the beginning of Filipino nationhood which his group hopes to revive.

Defensor said that President Macapagal-Arroyo had been informed of the group's formation and that he, along with Agrarian Reform Secretary Nazzer Pangandaman, had asked to be excused from the Cabinet meeting yesterday to lead the Madyaas' launching which coincided with the anniversary of the founding of the Katipunan during the Spanish

occupation.

He denied that the group was pro-Arroyo and that it was formed to counter the opposition's impeachment campaign against the President.

"This is not a political group and we do not intend to transform it into a political party. We will register this as an advocacy group. We are a neo-conservative group," Defensor said in an interview.

Unlike other groups whose political leanings were sometimes ambiguous, he said, Madyaas would make a clear stand on any issue.

Other co-founders of the group are: Former undersecretary Abraham Puruganan, Manila Rep. Miles Roces and Agusan del Sur Gov. Edward Plaza.

Defensor also enumerated the group's 7 point program for action, namely, to advocate for political and economic reforms, to enhance national security, to strengthen democratic institutions, to build a conducive environment for peace, to promote business activities, to build the global Filipino village and to advocate for the revival of national pride.

Former YOU comrade offers to help Danny Lim clear the air

By Cynthia D. Balana

A FORMER LEADER OF THE YOUNG OFFICERS Union (YOU) who took part in the bloody siege of Makati during the 1989 coup attempt yesterday defended beleaguered Scout Ranger Gen. Danilo Lim, saying the latter was only used by interest groups "just like what happened to us in 1989."

Former undersecretary Abraham Puruganan, a former Army colonel, said he sympathized with close friend Lim, adding that he was willing to help Lim clear the air surrounding the failed coup provided that he was cleared by President Macapagal-Arroyo to do so.

Puruganan, who said he had not talked to Lim since last year, said the US Military Academy graduate was a victim of circumstances as well as interest groups, including politicians.

"It's always that way," he said. "We were used and then dropped hastily ... hanging on air. Just like what was done to us in the past," he said, referring to his and Lim's experience during the 1989.

Puruganan had said he regretted having allowed himself to be used by vested political in-

terests during the 1989 coup and subsequently severed ties with former Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

Lim, on the other hand, took part in the peace talks that the administration of President Fidel Ramos held with mutinous soldiers and availed himself of amnesty given by Congress for his participation in the coup.

Puruganan attributed Lim's repeat of their "mistakes" to "wrong association" and "wrong information."

"That's your lot if you are a soldier. If you don't manage to see the real situation in the country, you could be influenced and act on wrong information," Puruganan explained.

He added: "Take a close look at the video clip (showing Lim reading an anti-government statement). He doesn't look comfortable with what he's saying. The Danny I know is self-assured. I think if he were the one who prepared the statement he read in the footage, just like what we did in 2001 when we issued a statement about YOU, he would have been very confident about what he was reading. I did not see such confidence in this new video."

Time to get what you love.



The BMW One-Year Deferred Payment Plan.

Extended until July 30, 2006.

- The One-Year Deferred Payment Plan starts with a 50% downpayment.
- The first monthly payment follows only after one year or on the 13th month.
- Monthly payments can be extended up to 2 years.

This innovative ownership solution is available on all brand new BMW models.



Prestige Cars BMW 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Tel. (02) 8928127 to 29 • Fax (02) 8167325

Approved by DTI-NCR. Promo period is extended until July 30, 2006. See posters for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3149, Series of 2000.

Coup plot report

AFTER THREE MONTHS, A MILITARY FACT-finding board yesterday turned in its official report on the Feb. 24 failed coup plot to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga.

AFP Inspector Rear Admiral Rufino Lopez, who headed the eight-man fact-finding board, handed the 43-page report to Senga at the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio.

The Lopez board began its investigation in

April, nearly two months after the Scout Rangers, Marines and the Philippine National Police Special Action Force allegedly plotted to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo during the 20th anniversary of the people power revolt.

A 33-page alleged draft of the report was leaked to the media last Monday.

Lopez refused to discuss the report, saying

it was up to Senga to disclose it.

"I will review this. I will study it. I will look at the recommendations. If there is a need for some people to go through court-martial then I will order the conduct of a pre-trial investigation. After that, charges will be filed then the court-martial proceedings will be done," Senga said.

But he stressed: "I am not pressured by anything." *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*



SlimFit TV

imagine real cinematic thrill with
the world's slimmest Flat TV

You'll marvel at the new Samsung SlimFit™ TV which is one-third slimmer than other flat TVs yet capable of delivering unsurpassed picture quality. Before your very eyes, Samsung's DNI™ breathes life into images with the most vivid colour and contrast, while Nano Pigment technology paints the most brilliant pictures you've ever seen. With Samsung SlimFit™ TV, it's not hard to imagine. To learn more, visit www.samsung.com/ph. Available in 21", 23", 32" models.

Samsung Customer Contact Center: **TOLL FREE 1-800-10SAMSUNG** for PLDT or **1-800-3SAMSUNG** for Digital.



ANG KATULONG NG MGA BAB
SA HIRAP AT GINHAWA

An advertisement for HEMOFER. The top section shows three black and white photographs: a close-up of a hand, a person's arm with a needle inserted, and a woman's face. The bottom section features the brand name "HEMOFER" in large, bold, outlined letters.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

SEARCH - THE SHUTTLE

ARMED ASTERIAS

ASIA BELL ROOT

TRIPOLION (INDIAN BREAD)

REFINERIA RUM

Digitized by srujanika@gmail.com

Subsidiary Program Guidelines

- Soku Card Program Guidelines**

 1. The Soku Card Program is available to all customers over 18 years old.
 2. To receive a Soku Card, customer must purchase (or receive) at least one prescription worth P1,000.00 made from any Mercury Drug Store.
 3. Soku Card Members are entitled to discounts from participating providers.
 4. All purchases made through the Soku Card earn points. Every purchase of P100.00 or equivalent is 1 point.
 5. Mercury Drug Soku Points are redeemable in multiples of 10 points. Every Soku Point is equivalent to P1.00.
 6. Always present your Soku Card before making any purchases.

The 650 Card program is available in all Metro Manila branches including those in Bagumbayan, Caloocan, Las Piñas, Pasay, Pateros, Rodriguez, Santa Maria, San Juan, Taguig, Tandang Sora, Valenzuela, and Quezon City.

**Parangga Biugan La Trinidad, La Union, ngay natin na pag-asa ang
haga-Pedalantia Tagpuangan at parangalan sa Cebu, Bohol, Leyte,
Aklan, Aparri, Batac, Burgos, Misamis Oriental, Agusan del Sur, Cotabato
at ilang iba pa. Ang pag-asa ng mga tao ay ang pag-asa na ang
higly reserved na aming pagtanda ay gawin. Nag-aalala ang aming
polibyo na magkakaroon ng aming iba't ibang preloga.**

In this public school, lessons spill into toilet

From page A1

estimates that for 2006, the country needed 10,549 new classrooms, 1.22 million desks, 67,03 million textbooks and 12,131 more teachers to deal with the crush.

The Philippines has 87 million people, with the population growing at 1.95 percent a year. Pressure from the Roman Catholic Church, which counts most Filipinos as followers, has hampered efforts to promote birth control.

Ironically while other public schools in the area complain about lack of students, many parents are pressing to have their children enrolled at Commonwealth Elementary because it is near their homes or their place of work—a nearby public market.

On enrollment day in June, many parents came to personally plead that their kids be allowed in despite the overcrowding.

"Look at that classroom with 80 kids in it. What kind of education will your child get there?" one exasperated teacher said.

"But my other children are already enrolled here," the mother pleaded.

School principal Avelina Salvador says most of the children come from the nearby slum where thousands of informal settlers crowd into small shanties made of scrap wood and galvanized iron sheets.

The annual tuition fee at the nearby church-run Claret School for boys is P60,000, equivalent to six months' wages of a typical minimum-wage earner in Manila.

Better off

Commonwealth Elementary is also attractive because it is perceived to be safe—a police station sits nearby—and because some pre-schoolers get free snacks. The children do not have enough money to buy their own food.

For all its problems, it is actually one of the better equipped government-run schools in the country, Salvador says.

It has acquired computers for students' use and even conducts pre-school classes and special education classes for disabled kids as well as "madrasa" classes for Muslim children on Saturdays.

The Philippines provides virtually free education for the first six years—or grades one to six—but the standards in government-run schools are usually much lower than those in expensive private schools.

Only the poorest send their kids to state-run schools.

Library is just a nook

The library is just a nook barely larger than an office cubicle. The laboratory has been closed, the scientific equipment left just for display. There is no music room or audio-visual room.

Instead, resourceful teachers show educational videos on the stairs with the steps acting as seats for the children.



CORRIDOR on the second floor of the Commonwealth Elementary School doubles as a classroom.

JOAN BONDOC

Assistant principal Willie Cacal candidly concedes that Commonwealth has the second-lowest test scores for schools in the district. "This is a result of having too many children in a class," he says.

To accommodate more students, the school operates on two shifts: grades 2, 4 and 6 are in the morning classes from 6 a.m. to 12 noon and Grades 1, 3 and 5 are in the afternoon classes from 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

This forces 7-year-olds to wake up before dawn to catch their early morning class.

Cacal says the children's busy parents give them too little support in their schooling. "Some don't get enough allowance. Some can't get help with homework. Some children aren't even bathed," he says.

The teaching staff has fallen to 230 from last year's 252.

"There's too many of them (pupils) in class, it's hard for me to monitor every pupil's academic performance especially their reading skills," says Corazon Bermudez, who teaches English to first-graders.

Shepherd, not teacher

Allan de Guzman of the Church-run University of Santo Tomas Center for Education Research and Development says:

"I don't think a teacher can handle supervision in a class with more than 60 pupils, he's no longer a teacher but a shepherd of a flock."

De Guzman also says that with such a low pupil-to-textbook ratio, "we do not have the assurance that everybody will end up as readers."

President Macapagal-Arroyo has said that education will be a priority and has called for the building of more schoolrooms and hiring of more teachers to alleviate the overcrowding.

Commonwealth Elementary will get some relief soon as the city government is putting up a new multi-story building on the campus.

Whether the national government can make a similar commitment for other areas in need of classrooms is uncertain.

"It's best for the government to invest its resources in education. If you try to look comparatively speaking, the world standard for education is 8 percent (of the national budget) but the Philippines only invests 1.3 percent," De Guzman remarked.

AFP

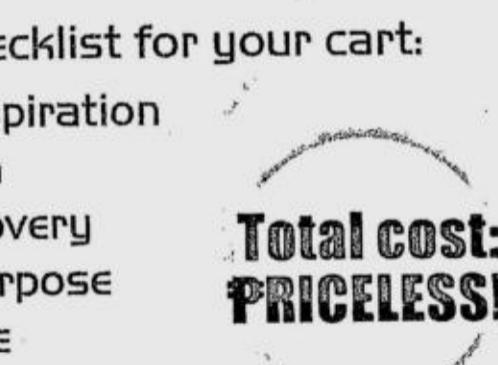
Chinese Filipino Business Club, Inc.

SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WEEKLY

FREE! SEMINARS & LIVELIHOOD TRAININGS PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Date	Time	Event
July 12, Wednesday	9:00 - 12:00 nn	Job & Livelihood Fair (City of Valenzuela) venue: SM Valenzuela
July 17, Monday	9:00 - 9:30 am	DTI - CFBCI SME Center Inauguration Rites
	9:30 - 10:00 am	Manila Innovations Fair Opening Ceremonies (City of Manila)
	1:00 - 5:30 pm	Cocktail Party (by invitation only)
		Fashion Jewelleries & Accessories Making (TESDA)
		Artificial Plants & Paper Flower Making (TESDA)
		Herbal Soap Making (TESDA)
July 18, Tuesday	9:00 - 12:00 nn	Job & livelihood Fair (City of Caloocan) venue: Caloocan City Hall
	9:00 - 12:00 nn	Business Planning & Financing for SMEs (SBC)
	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Start Your Own Business (PTTC)
	3:30 - 5:30 pm	Business On Line (PTTC)
	5:30 - 6:30 pm	Good Manufacturing Practices (CIC, DTI)
July 19, Wednesday	9:00 - 12:00 nn	Power of Franchising (Phil. Franchising Ass'n.)
	1:00 - 4:30 pm	Assessment for Call Center Agent (TESDA)
		Cellphone Repair Technology & E-load dealership (TESDA)
July 20, Thursday	9:00 - 12:00 nn	Sales & Marketing Strategies for SMEs (Phil. Mktg. Ass'n)
	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Labor Standards (DOLE-NCR)
	3:30 - 5:30 pm	Labor Law Updates (DOLE-NCR)
July 21, Friday	9:00 - 12:00 nn	Job & Livelihood Fair (City of Quezon) venue: Quezon City Hall
	1:00 - 3:00 pm	How to Start A Barangay Micro Business (City of Manila)
	3:30 - 5:30 pm	Work Improvement for Small Establishments (DOLE)
	5:30 - 6:30 pm	Packaging Strategies for SMEs (DOST)
July 22, Saturday	9:00 - 12:00 nn	Information & Communication Technology for SMEs (ACER)
	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Best Business Plan Writing Seminar (AFICS)
	3:00 - 3:30 pm	Best Business Plan Writing Workshop (AFICS)
	4:00 - 5:00 pm	Launching of CFBCI 2nd Best Business Plan Writing Competition
		Sharing of Success Stories - Mr. Donald Lim - CEO, Yehoy.com
		-Mr. Rommel Juan - Founder, Binatlon

1. Seminars & livelihood trainings are FREE but slots are on a First Come First Serve Basis.
2. Certificates for attendees of at least 3 modules will be issued.
3. Pre-Registration required. For reservations, please call tel. nos. 244-4991, 244-4996 and 241-6463.
4. All programs will be conducted in CFBC Auditorium (8th floor, Sky Tower, 68 Dasmanias St., Binondo Mta.). Job fairs will be held at their respective venue.

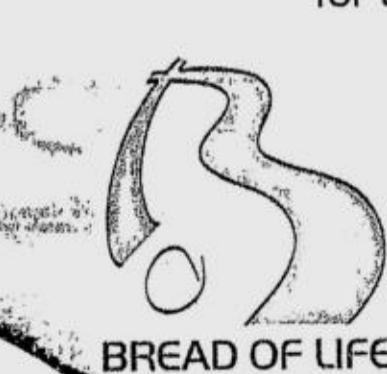


Main Place

@ Mall of Asia
Cinema I, Sundays 10am
with Butch Conde & Gerry Nono

opens on

**JULY 16
2006**



opens on

**JULY 16
2006**

DFA: No word yet on UN rights probe

By Nikko Dizon

BEING A PARTY TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN rights treaties and conventions, the Philippines is obligated to allow UN officials and representatives to enter the country and look into its human rights situation, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday.

But there are processes to be followed, Gilberto Asuque, DFA spokesperson, said.

"There should first be a note verbale from the representatives to the host government of their intended visit. It's extending the proper courtesy," Asuque told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

The note verbale would be coursing through the Philippine mission to the UN, headed by Enrique Manalo, the country's permanent representative to the UN.

The mission would then forward the matter to Manila. Upon receipt of the note verbale, Asuque said, Manila would "promptly act" on the request.

As of yesterday, Asuque said the DFA has yet to receive a note verbale.

The Inquirer reached Asuque for comment on the allegation of Bayan Muna partylist Rep. Satur Ocampo that Manalo appeared to be sitting on the requests for invitation by the special rapporteurs who wanted to look into the Philippine human rights situation.

Asuque said that the process includes the application for the appropriate visas by the UN representatives.

"Under treaty obligations, we are required to facilitate the entry of UN officials and representatives," Asuque said.

In a joint press conference with Ocampo last Thursday, opposition Sen. Jamby Madrigal said that the UN special rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression has given the commitment to look into the human rights situation in the Philippines.

NEWSBRIEFS

'Wowowee' case out soon

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice is set to issue this month a resolution on the case against ABS-CBN officials and others in connection with the stampede at the anniversary of the network's noon time show "Wowowee" at the Philsports Arena last February where 74 people died. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez told reporters that prosecutor Leo Dacera has completed the preliminary investigation of the case and submitted it for resolution. "The preliminary investigation is finished. We are preparing the resolution. It will be released within the month," he said. The preliminary investigation was halted in March when the Court of Appeals issued a temporary restraining order because the DOJ allegedly showed bias against ABS-CBN. The appellate court asked DOJ to comment on the network's claim and conducted hearings to resolve the matter. In May, the Court of Appeals allowed the DOJ to resume its preliminary investigation. The National Bureau of Investigation earlier recommended that top ABS-CBN officials be charged with reckless imprudence resulting to homicide.

Leila B. Salaverria

Shame campaign in Saudi

THE PHILIPPINE Overseas Employment Administration yesterday warned Filipinos illegally residing and working in Saudi Arabia that they are now targets of a "shame campaign" by the Riyadh government. POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the Majlis-as-Shura, or the Saudi consultative assembly, has passed a law that would identify violators of the kingdom's residency law as well as citizens who hire overstaying foreigners for work. The names of the offenders would be published in a newspaper circulating in the areas where they live or work, according to Baldoz. The current Saudi law on residency punishes the offending employer with a fine of 100,000 Saudi rials (about P1.4 million) and two years in jail and the illegal worker with a 50,000-rial (about P700,000) fine and a year in jail.

Jerome Aning

Retrouvaille weekend

RETROUVAILLE, a French word for 'rediscovery,' helps couples heal and renew troubled marriages. This program has saved the marriages of thousands of couples here and abroad who were headed for separation. Retrouvaille consists of a live-in weekend and post weekend sessions for married couples. It is not a spiritual retreat, or a seminar, or a social gathering. Couples are encouraged to put the past behind them and start 'rediscovering' their love for one another. For more information, visit the Retrouvaille International website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com. A Retrouvaille weekend is scheduled on July 21-23 at the Augustinian Contemplative Nuns Mother of Good Counsel Monastery, Carmel Farms, Purok 8, Tungkong Mangga, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. For details, call Merit and Bernie at (0917) 795-0682 and 410-7101; or Mar and Arni (0918) 383-3217 or 825-2605; or Tony and Cops at (0918) 526-7660 and 435-3291 or Msgr. Cesario Paquiblan, Spiritual Director at (0917) 850-8928. All names will be kept in strictest confidence.

Xavier U homecoming

ATTENTION all graduates of Xavier University-Alma de Cagayan college, high school and grade school. You are invited to come home to Cagayan de Oro City for the Grand Alumni Homecoming on Aug. 18 to 20. Raul L. Noble, XU-AAA president, promises fun and camaraderie for the returning alumni. For details, call the Office of Alumni and University Development at tel. nos. (088) 858-3116, Loc. 2405 or (08822) 72-3116, Loc. 2405, or send email to devoffice@xu.edu.ph or xualumnioffice@yahoo.com.

What senatorial elections? GMA party taking it easy

By Christine O. Avendano

UNLIKE THE OPPOSITION, THE ARROYO administration is not about to reveal its lineup for the 2007 senatorial race and the reluctance is based on its expectation of the holding of parliamentary elections.

"We are for a (shift to a) parliamentary unicameral system of government so why should we talk about senatorial lineup?" President Macapagal Arroyo's political adviser Gabriel Clau-

dio said, when asked about the administration's senatorial lineup.

"It is both premature and inconsistent with our advocacy and the political setting that we hope to see in 2007," Claudio told reporters.

The ruling Lakas party and its coalitions were more focused on "strengthening our political and electoral machinery at the local and district level," according to Claudio.

And because of this, he said the ad-

ministration coalition "feel confident about our level of preparation because we would have been able to put in place better than the opposition our local and grassroots machinery for any eventuality."

Asked then whether the opposition was preparing for an office that was not going to be there, in this case the Senate, Claudio said: "That's how we would like to look at it."

"The administration is prepared for

any eventuality ... but whatever the electoral activity is in 2007, be it a plebiscite or an actual election for local, parliamentary or local cum senatorial, we are better prepared than the opposition," he said.

The other day, it was reported that former opposition senators Gregorio Honasan II, Vicente Sotto III, Tessie Oreta and John Osmena were preparing to run for reelection on the same ticket in next year's mid-term elections.

SHARP

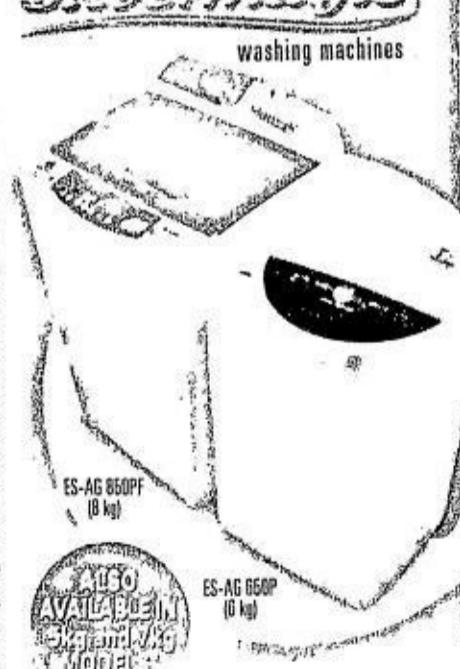
For fresh, bacteria-free clothes, who needs the sun?

Sharp's Silver Ion Technology kills bacteria like the sun.



Silver Ion Technology

washing machines



The Sharp Silver Ion (Ag⁺) technology

State-of-the-art germ killing machine

Sharp's revolutionary Silver Ion Technology coats clothes with silver ions during the rinse cycle. The silver ion particles act like the sun's rays to effectively kill odor-causing bacteria, protecting fabrics from germs until the next wash. The hole-less stainless tub prevents mold growth that is common to plastic tubs.

Best for condominium living

The silver ions help prevent damp odors, keeping half-dried and even indoor-dried clothes smelling fresh. The ion generator can be set to get rid of stubborn bacteria which cling on odor-prone laundry such as socks, sportswear, bed sheets and blankets.



Better than regular rinsing

In a bacteria-growth test comparing a normally rinsed fabric and a silver ion coated fabric, after 18 hours of storage at 37°C, results showed that the Silver Ion coating was more efficient in reducing the growth of odor-causing bacteria.



Certified by the experts

The Sharp Silvermagic Washing Machine's anti-microbial power has been certified by the Kyoto Microorganism Lab's Test for Antibacterial Activity and Efficiency on Textile Products.

EVERYTHING'S BETTER IF IT'S SHARP.

www.sharp.ph



More consumers trust Sharp washing machines.

Sharp is 2006 Reader's Digest Trusted Brands Gold Awardee for washing machine category. It is also one of the leading washing machine brands in the Philippines, according to Growth for Knowledge (GfK), a global market research organization.

NBI summons Señeres about his 'plotters' list

By Margaux C. Ortiz

FORMER AMBASSADOR ROY SEÑERES IS set to appear on Monday before the National Bureau of Investigation, which summoned him as the agency pursued its probe of the coup attempt last February.

NBI Special Task Force chief Reynaldo Esmeralda said the unit issued a subpoena to Señeres Thursday night directing him to answer questions before investigators.

Señeres said that he would execute an affidavit affirming the contents of his earlier interview with the INQUIRER, the NBI official added.

"If Señeres will cooperate and his affidavit is exhaustive enough, he could become a government witness," Esmeralda told reporters.

Gov't witness

In the interview, Señeres revealed that former Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos, former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, ABC 5 chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, construction mogul F.R. Cruz Jr., and Ifiigo Zobel of the wealthy Zobel family were involved in the Feb. 24 coup plot.

The former ambassador also admitted that he encouraged coup leader Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim to withdraw support from Presi-

dent Macapagal-Arroyo.

Zobel denial

Zobel, who is reportedly in Spain, rejected Señeres's claim in a statement faxed to the INQUIRER. "I deny any involvement in any plot with Señeres or anyone else," Zobel said.

Esmeralda said that as soon as Señeres issued his affidavit, the NBI would subpoena all the personalities implicated in the document.

He reiterated that former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa) secretary general Pastor "Boy" Saycon and Time Asia correspondent Nelly Sindayen would also be summoned to the NBI next week "in light of recent developments on the case."

"We have already expressed our intent to subpoena Ms Sindayen to her lawyer, who will relay the information to their Hong Kong office," Esmeralda said.

Esmeralda had subpoenaed Lim three months ago in connection with a Time Asia Magazine article linking the general and a number of personalities, including Cojuangco and Saycon, to the February coup attempt.

Lim, who was relieved of his post as head of the Scout Rangers regiment based in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija, denied involvement in a plot against the President when he issued a statement at the NBI last March.

GMA: Ceasefire now before peace talks

From page A1

insincere overtures for peace talks," said presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

"This government will not be hoodwinked by the worn-out, dirty tricks of the CPP-NPA that have dragged (out) the peaceful resolution of the problem for more than 30 years," Bunye added.

Bunye's comments came days after top leaders of the communist-led National Democratic Front visited Norway, the third-party intermediary in the stalled peace talks, to get Oslo to convince Manila to return to the negotiating table.

Earlier, the NDF leaders met with opposition Sen. Jamby Madrigal in the Netherlands. Following the meeting, Madrigal and the NDF issued a joint communiqué urging the government to resume the stalled peace talks with communist rebels.

The NDF sought the resumption of peace negotiations after the President directed the military to crush the communist insurgency in two years' time. The President ordered the release of P1 billion to

fund the anti-insurgency campaign.

In recent months, the military has launched counter-attacks against positions of the 7,400-member NPA in the provinces around Manila.

A number of suspected rebel sympathizers were also killed. Militants pointed to military death squads as the alleged perpetrators of the killings.

Bunye said that if the government "can't get the CPP-NPA in earnest talks based on a ceasefire, this administration will just continue to support peace initiatives at the local level, focusing on NPA units that are willing to lay down their arms and return to the (fold) of the law."

Peace talks were suspended in 2004 after the rebels demanded that the government ask the European Union and the United States to remove them from their lists of foreign terrorist organizations.

On Thursday, a Palace official said that communist rebels must prove their sincerity in silencing the guns of their armed agents.

"We have not totally shut down the peace process. What we are

looking for is what comprises their real intent and purpose in the negotiation," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said in a radio interview.

"If they are really sincere, why don't they enforce a real ceasefire?"

Ermita noted that communist rebels had continued to step up their attacks while the peace talks were taking place in the Netherlands.

Exploiting peace process?

Ermita said the peace talks would succeed if a true ceasefire was in place even before a final peace pact was signed, in the manner a peace agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front was concluded.

The government has said the communists' insincerity was the main reason why it has turned a deaf ear to recent calls for the resumption of talks.

"It's bad enough that our Armed Forces and the police force have been reminding us all along that the communists might be using the peace process to bring us into complacency by softening down in our discussions with them," said Ermita.

With an AFP report

Palace timed Lim video release for CBCP assembly, says Cayetano

From page A1

They said the Palace's alleged move was intended to convince the CBCP that the political opposition was in cahoots with leftist rebels and rightist soldiers in the Feb. 24 coup plot.

At a press conference in Quezon City, House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said that from the start, Malacañang's strategy was "to refuse to answer the issues by blaming the political crisis on destabilization plots."

He said that with the airing on Monday of the tape showing Lim withdrawing support from President Macapagal-Arroyo, the "goal" was "to impinge ill motives to oppositionists, to make them appear as power-grabbers."

"Of course, any Church leader will not support selfish power grabs, especially violent power grabs," said the lawmaker from Taguig-Pateros.

'Persecuting critics'

Thus, he said, the opposition should point out the difference between a constitutional process such as the impeachment drive against Ms Arroyo and in-

dependent moves for a power grab.

At the same press conference, Rep. Joel Villanueva of the party-list group Citizens Battle Against Corruption said the CBCP should not let itself be manipulated by an allegedly scheming administration.

"It's our duty to know the truth, for the truth shall set us free. The administration doesn't want to address the root cause of the problem and instead focuses on persecuting its critics," he said.

Villanueva said Ms Arroyo should not only go after Lim and his backers but also inquire into the root cause of restiveness in the military.

"If [Ms Arroyo's chief of staff] Mike Defensor is saying that the President's declaration of a week-long emergency was vindicated by the videotape showing Lim withdrawing support from the President, the opposition is also vindicated by the 'Hello Garci' tape," he said.

He was referring to the tapped phone conversations between Ms Arroyo and then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano that

supposedly proved cheating in the 2004 polls.

From ballot to bullet

Cayetano said the release of the tape was also aimed at preventing many prominent private citizens from joining the citizens-led impeachment attempt this year by trying to portray them as coup plotters.

"In reality, the impeachment process is the answer to keeping military adventurism at bay because when you have a constitutional and legal process that people can rely on, you close the door on those who are taking the extraconstitutional path," he said.

Cayetano, a lawyer, said that in the past, the argument for democracy was that "we should surrender the bullets and go to the ballots because it's only through democratic governance that progress can be attained."

He said bullets, bloodshed and war would lead to further armed conflict while the ballot would lead to consensus and cooperation.

"Our main problem now is the accusation that the election was stolen in 2004, and that the bullet, represented by the military, was

used in 2004. It's the President who brought this from the ballot to the bullet," Cayetano said.

He said that if Ms Arroyo now wanted to "bring it back to the ballot," she had only three options—call a "snap" election, resign, or face impeachment.

'Self-serving'

At the 30th anniversary celebration of the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference in Makati City, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, CBCP president, lamented Malacañang's purported double standard in applying the principle of separation of Church and State.

Lagdameo described as "self-serving" the Malacañang standard, especially in the wake of Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez's decision to file an impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

"When politicians, or shall we say even Malacañang, like what the CBCP is saying, they will not invoke the separation of Church and State. But when what the CBCP says somehow jars [them], they will always invoke the [principle]. I look at it as self-serving," Lagdameo told reporters.

Malacañang had earlier called

on the CBCP and other members of the clergy to steer clear of the latest efforts to impeach Ms Arroyo over allegations of cheating in the 2004 election.

At the height of the controversy in July 2005, Ms Arroyo and her allies praised the CBCP, then headed by Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, for refusing to join calls for her resignation.

Lagdameo yesterday maintained that the Church remained relevant in "clarifying issues and guiding the people, especially on matters that are connected with morality."

The prelate of Jaro, Iloilo, also pointed out that the impeachment issue was both moral and constitutional, contrary to Defender's stated position that it was purely legal.

"It's only a matter of who's looking at it and what he wants to say," Lagdameo said.

'I'll do it again'

Bishop Iñiguez said he did not regret his groundbreaking move of filing an impeachment complaint.

"I'll do it again," he told the INQUIRER during a break in the BBC forum.

Asked whether his decision could set a precedent on the clergy getting directly involved in politics, Iñiguez said: "I think it was an opening for many [people] to become aware of the issue, that it's still an issue, and an invitation to get involved."

The Caloocan bishop, who also heads the CBCP Commission on Public Affairs, said he was "overwhelmed" by the strong support he had received.

"The CBCP respects Bishop Iñiguez's personal option and will not go with the suggestion of Malacañang to sanction him," Lagdameo had said in a statement.

Having received that support, Iñiguez yesterday appeared cool to the idea of raising the impeachment issue at the CBCP's second plenary assembly.

Lagdameo said the matter was not included in the agenda.

But he said he was not closing the door on the possibility that some bishops might raise the impeachment issue and eventually prompt the CBCP to come up with a pastoral statement on it.

"I keep my mind open to whatever the bishops will recommend," Lagdameo said.

INQUIRER TV GUIDE



Panoorin: World-class na galing ng Pinoy sa pag-awit.

ClickTheCity.com

The phenomenon begins. July 29, Saturday, 8 PM.

PHILIPPINE IDOL NA!



Iba tayo!



Sabado Movie Classics

Na Noches (Station 2)

The Simpsons

The Bateman

Dawn Rangers

Dino Thunder

Gundam Seed

Supernatural (Season 1)

Aqua Teen

Drive By

2001

Talk Asia

The Daily Show With Jon Stewart

Em Blasts US Women Out Champs

WSJ

Life on The Rock

Forbes On Fox

Cashin' In

Shojo Stopped

One Upon A Time In Mexico

Talk Asia

The Daily Show With Jon Stewart

WSJ

Life on The Rock

Forbes On Fox

Cashin' In

Shojo Stopped

One Upon A Time In Mexico

Talk Asia

The Daily Show With Jon Stewart

WSJ

Life on The Rock

Forbes On Fox

Cashin' In

Shojo Stopped

One Upon A Time In Mexico

Talk Asia

The Daily Show With Jon Stewart

WSJ

Life on The Rock

Forbes On Fox

Cashin' In

Shojo Stopped

One Upon A Time In Mexico

Talk Asia

The Daily Show With Jon Stewart

WSJ

Life on The Rock

Forbes On Fox

Cashin' In

Shojo Stopped

One Upon A Time In Mexico

Talk Asia

The Daily Show With Jon Stewart

WSJ

Life on The Rock

Courage wanted slain labor leader transferred to Manila

By Norman Bordadora, Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

THE CONFEDERATION FOR UNITY, RECOGNITION and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage) said yesterday it had asked Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman to move municipal agrarian reform officer Paquito Diaz to a safe place when he was killed Thursday night.

Courage national president Ferdinand Gaite said Diaz himself received confirmation from friends in the Philippine National Police that the slain labor leader was in an "order of battle" list of the military in the area.

Courage even asked Pangandaman to transfer Diaz to the Department of Agrarian Reform central office for security reasons.

Diaz was the regional chair of Courage in eastern Visayas. He is the third member of the national organization of government employees to be brutally killed by motorcycle-riding gunmen wearing masks.

Diaz was shot at close range on Thursday at 6 p.m. near his house at Esperas Street, Magallanes district in Tacloban City. He was waiting for a friend when two men riding tandem on a DT Yamaha motorcycle sped by.

The unidentified assassin, who was riding at the back of the bike, alighted and shot Diaz with two bullets from a caliber .45 pistol, hitting him on the left eye and left chest.

The suspects, who wore helmets, fled towards the downtown area, witnesses said.

Supt. Anacleto Limbo, Tacloban police chief, said Diaz was immediately brought to nearby Bethany Hospital but attending physicians there pronounced him dead on arrival.

Limbo said Diaz's brother said the labor leader had been "wanted" for over a year now because of his involvement in Courage and other causes.

He said his men and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group would be working together in investigating the case. So far, there are no clear leads.

Lulu Palencia, chair of the Citizen's Anti-Crime

'Plinky' posts bail to avoid arrest

By Leila B. Salaverria

FORMER TV HOST MARIE ROXANNE "PLINKY" Recto posted a P12,000-bail on Thursday evening after a Bago City Regional Trial Court in Negros Occidental ordered her arrested for a direct assault charge filed by the father of her son.

Recto, who listed her occupation as "Pilates instructor," allegedly kicked Magdaleno Peña on the left shin on Jan. 18 during the hearing of the child custody case Peña had filed against her.

Judge Herminigildo Octaviano of the Bago City Regional Trial Court issued the warrant of arrest on July 3.

Recto surrendered voluntarily to the National Bureau of Investigation's Special Task Force and went to the Manila Metropolitan Court to post bail.

The Bago City Prosecutor also filed direct assault charges against Recto for attacking a person in authority since Peña, a lawyer, was representing himself in the case.

Assistant city prosecutor Elmer Soguilan said in his resolution that Peña's version of the incident was more credible than Recto's.

Peña claimed that Recto kicked him after Peña handed over to Recto their son, upon orders of Judge Henry Trocino.

Trocino had asked Peña to allow Recto to see their son.

After Recto allegedly kicked Peña, he reportedly uttered cries of pain and referred to himself as the "battered boyfriend."

Peña also said his left leg allegedly bled from Recto's kick.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, July 8, 2006
13th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Am 9:11-15
Gospel: Matthew 9:14-17

The disciples of John came to him with the question, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast on many occasions, but not your disciples?"

Jesus answered them, "How can you expect wedding guests to mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? Time will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, then they will fast."

"No one patches an old coat with a piece of unshrunken cloth, for the patch will shrink and tear an even bigger hole in the coat. Besides you don't put new wine in old wineskins. If you do, the wineskins will burst and the wine be spilt. No, you put new wine in fresh skins; then both are preserved."

Commentary

The other side of the prophet's rage is a promise of hope, and so Amos' words are now of restoration, rebuilding, being raised up and harvest of plenty, of being at home in their lands. And Jesus seeks to tell his disciples that they are not to fast while he is with them—the bridegroom, who is the image of the wedding feast of peace, abiding justice, and welcome for the poor. Jesus' kingdom is a new thing, more amazing than anything the prophets of old sang of—it is new wine, life and ways of living as God desires for all: abundant life, especially for those most lacking. Do we understand? Do we live with this promise shared with the least of our brothers and sisters?

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, 1101, Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: caet@claret.org; Websites: <http://www.claret.org> (Claretian Publications Inc.) & <http://missions.claret.org> (Claretians in the Philippines)

A7

COPIERS Sales/Rentals

NEC • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
Also Available : LIQUID COPIERS

BRAND NEW
CANON R1210
BEST FOR BUSINESS

P 11,000.
ONLY
COPIERS TYPE
FT 1320, 15 CPM

P 20,000.
ONLY
REGON
RICON FT 3813
BEST FOR BUSINESS

P 30,950.
ONLY
BRAND NEW
CANON FC 195
FOR PERSONAL USE

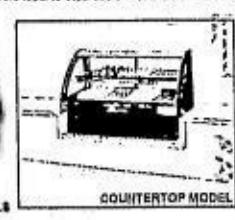
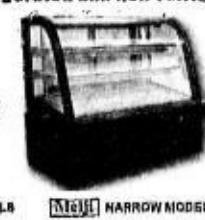
P 15,000.
ONLY
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS.

COPYTRADE®
Copystar Bldg. 510 MF Jucanon St.
San Pablo, Manila (Beside Net Unit)
Tel. 749-8158 to 86
781-3472 • 749-8216
www.copytrade.com.ph

RINGBINDER / LAMINATOR
CUTTER / ILLUMINATOR
FAX MACHINE, ETC
ACCEPT COPIER RENTALS
FOR SHORT EVENTS
BUY TRADE-IN OLD COPIERS

Imported Cake Showcases

On display at our showroom!
Refrigerated and Non-refrigerated models available!



Or call:
MERIT at Tel. nos.: 6338752 or 6338753
or visit our showroom at:
Philippines Home Bldg., Edsa cor. Madison St., Mandaluyong City
website <http://www.meritstainless.com>

Comfortable lifestyle
need not be expensive



PACIFIC
Regency

Own a unit for as low as
P11,388/mo.

Pablo Ocampo Sr. Ave. [Vito Cruz], City of Manila
812-2222 243-6565 818-8888 241-1894
Leading Condominium Developer Residential/Office
2005 CNBC Asia Business Leader Awards Honor Roll [Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia]
www.cityland.net

GENERIC RETAIL PRICE

LESS 20% FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Allotropin Tab 100 mg	1.60 / tab
Amoxicillin Cap 500 mg	3.60 / cap
Atenolol Tab 100 mg	7.00 / tab
Bromhexine HCl Syrup 60 ml	30.00 / bot
Carbocisteine Cap 500 mg	2.50 / cap
Glibenclamide Tab 5 mg	1.50 / tab
Loperamide Cap 2 mg	1.40 / cap
Mefenamic Acid Tab 500 mg	1.60 / tab
Nifedipine Cap 5 mg	4.50 / cap
Paracetamol 125mg/5ml 60 ml	29.00 / bot
Paracetamol Tab 500 mg	0.75 / tab

(Per Tab/Cap/Bot)	(Per Box)	(Per Carton)
BIAS NA TAB	42	420
BIAS NA CAP	42	420
BIAS NA BOT	42	420
BIAS NA BOX	42	420

MON-SAT 8:30am-5:30pm/ FREE DELIVERY IN M.M. P2,000.00

UE
is honored and proud
to be the UAAP host
for the eighth time.

UAAP Season 69, which opens today,
marks the eighth time for UE
to host the country's premier
collegiate sports league—
an occasion made all the more momentous
given that UE marks its Diamond Jubilee
this year.

We enjoin everyone—participants and
spectators alike—to give all-out support
not just for their favorites
but for the entire UAAP Season 69,
as we pursue the Season's goal of
"Achieving Excellence in Sports
through Unity, Harmony
and Commitment."



Tomorrow Begins in the East

UE MANILA
2219 C. M. Recto
Avenue, Manila
Tel. nos. 735-8577 or
735-5471-82;
locals 398/399
www.ue.edu.ph



UE CALOOCAN
105 Samson Road,
Caloocan City
Tel. nos. 367-4787
or 367-4572/
74-7577-79
www.ue.edu.ph



UERM MEMORIAL
MEDICAL CENTER
Aurora Blvd., Quezon City
Tel. nos. 715-0861
local 7608 or 713-3315
www.uerm.ph

Strike 3 for lawyer arrested with 'fugitives'

From page A1

Last February, authorities found him in the same vehicle carrying 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, one of four rebel soldiers who had earlier escaped from detention in Fort Bonifacio.

Wounded in 1st brush with the law

He was out on bail when he was nabbed again yesterday.

During his first brush with law enforcers in 1997, Belmonte, a nephew of Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, was wounded in the chest during a supposed firefight between his group and government agents.

Belmonte reappeared in the limelight last Feb. 21 when he and San Juan were stopped at a Batangas checkpoint after allegedly meeting with communist rebels.

Student leader

A student leader at the University of the Philippines, Belmonte was an officer of the student council of the then UP College of Arts and Sciences in 1983.

Belmonte belonged to Alpha Sigma, a fraternity that had produced leaders in

both the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines.

During his and San Juan's arrest last February, authorities claimed to have found electronic documents containing proof of a supposed alliance between communist rebels and rogue soldiers.

'Points of agreement'

Left-leaning organizations as well as a lawyer for the Magdalo rebels, Ruel Puldido, had dismissed the allegations as "foolishness."

One of the documents supposedly seized during the February incident was titled Important Points Agreed and Understood between the Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas (PKP) and the Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan (KAB).

According to the document, the two parties agreed "to fight for the ouster of the Arroyo regime (and) to replace it with a government that is favorable to minimum reforms needed in the interest of the nation."

The KAB is a political movement made up of civilians and soldiers who have formed the Makabayang Kawal ng Pilipinas (MKP), the document said. Police

claimed that the MKP's leaders included former Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

'Ousting GMA'

"The PKP and the KAP joins with the people in their aim to oust the Arroyo government, and in its place, to establish a transitional government..." the agreement said.

"Both the PKP-BHB (New People's Army) and the KAB recognize the need for an armed component and a democratic mass movement and a broad united front," the document said.

"The ouster of the Arroyo regime shall be the result of a broad and united anti-Arroyo front; of the continued division of the ranks of those who support the Arroyo government; of a widening disgust, and the withdrawal of support... of officers and men of the Armed Forces (from) the Arroyo regime; and the separate and coordinated military offensives and other forms of cooperation of armed forces fighting the regime like the BHB and MKP."

One of the aims of the alliance is the creation of a transition government, the documents said.



THIRD TIME AROUND for lawyer Christopher Belmonte (standing) arrested with the Magdalo officers.

REM ZAMORA

Rebel 'powerhouse' falls: 6 Magdalo officers, 2 civilians seized

From page A1

The raid on a two-story, stone house on No. 34 Adler St. in Fil-Invest 2 in Barangay Batasan Hills, Quezon City, capped three nights of stakeout.

Officials said the house had been rented for P35,000 a month from its owner who is now in the United States. They refused to divulge the owner's identity. (See sidebar on Page A8).

The six rebel soldiers—Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza, 1Lt. Sonny Sarmiento and Patricio Burmidang Jr., 2Lt. Angelbert Gay and Aldrin Baldonado, who are all from the Army, and Navy Lt.j.g. Kiram Sadava—were all in handcuffs, as was lawyer Jose Christopher "Kit" Belmonte, when they were presented to the media soon after their arrest.

The second civilian, a Michael Yangson, was detained at Camp Crame. A woman and two boys aged 10 and 12, who were also in the house when the raid occurred, were released, police said.

Some of the rebel soldiers' weapons were lying on a sofa in the house but the soldiers offered no resistance, raiding officials said.

Big blow

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga told reporters: "Today, a big blow to military adventurism was delivered."

"We have prevented the possible conduct of terroristic actions as revealed by their plans that we have unmasked earlier, in pursuit of continuing efforts to destabilize the government," Senga also said.

Besides Armalite rifles and grenades, operatives also found C4 explosives, detonating devices and other paraphernalia, as well as several blueprints.

Blueprint of Batasan

"One of the blueprints recovered is the blueprint of the Batasan Complex. As we all know, the Sona address of the President is fast approaching," Calderon pointed out.

Senga raised an intriguing point.

"It will arouse your interest why they would rent a house at this point in time. And then we found this blueprint of the Batasan in their possession," he said. "It's early to jump to some conclusions but we are looking at bits and pieces of information and we are trying to put them together."

Asked if there was a plot to bomb the Batasan, Senga said: "It's too early to say."

Who are their backers?

Still, two questions intrigued investigators: How did the rogue soldiers obtain a blueprint of the Batasan building when only the public works department, they said, keeps such blueprints?

And, why did they move into the area, which was near the Batasan, just when Ms Arroyo's Sona was approaching.

"The next step is to identify civilian supporters and retired military officers who are their cohorts," Senior Supt. Asher Dolina said.

Dolina also said: "What we want to find out is who rented it



WHAT HAVE WE GOT HERE? A bomb expert lines up the explosive materials seized from the Magdalo safehouse.

REM ZAMORA

Gonzales vows no letup against plotters

CEBU CITY—NATIONAL SECURITY Adviser Norberto Gonzales said the government's determination to crush destabilizers would not waver even if the threats to it were down to one percent.

"Until it's 100 percent over, we will not stop," he said following a Cabinet meeting here held after the military announced the arrest of six rebel Magdalo officers and two civilians.

He said it was about time to "remove all the threats, so we could all move on."

Gonzales said he expected a "calmer" State of the Nation Address of the President on Monday with the arrest of the Magdalo soldiers.

Rep. Joel Mayo Almarial of Davao Oriental said the arrests boosted efforts to "bring to justice those who conspired to overthrow" President Arroyo.

Rep. Mauricio Domogan of Baguio City said there was no way adventurists would win over a duly constituted government.

Connie E. Fernandez, *PDI* Visayas Bureau and Michael Ubac in Manila

tional Capital Region-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

At 2 a.m., the police confirmed that their targets were inside the house. An officer said at least nine teams surrounded the house.

"When the entering force moved in, one person saw them and locked the gate. The team had to climb over the fence," the officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Dolina said some of the occupants were still asleep while the others were already awake when the police assaulted the house.

"Some were in short pants," he said.

Four of the soldiers tried to break out but were nabbed after scaling a back wall.

One of them, Sadava (identified in the police statement as "Badava") sprained his leg. His companions were bruised and injured.

Could blow up building

Among items seized during the raid were six cell phones, 25 rounds of ammunition for a 9mm pistol, and 19 for an M14 rifle, three blasting caps, eight hand grenades, three M203 grenades, one demolition cord, three detonating cords, 15 demolition blocks, a TNT demolition block, three M16 Armalite rifles with two magazines, an M4 Colt Armalite, and a carbine with a magazine.

"These [explosives] are enough to blow up a tall building," said Dolina.

The woman and the boys found in the house were said to be relatives of Yangson.

For appearances only

"They were props so the neighborhood will see a family... but we know they were not part of the plan, whatever plans (they) had," Dolina said.

Police said they would charge

Yangson and Belmonte with obstruction of justice, which would include harboring fugitives.

The three cars found outside the house were in Yangson's name, Dolina said.

Only 'Gringo' at large

Calderon hailed the arrests as a "big blow to destabilization forces." He said only the group of ex-Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan remained at large.

"Siyá na lang ang natitira (He's the only one left)," said Calderon.

Sarmiento, Rabonza and Burmidang carried a P500,000 bounty each for their alleged participation in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny in Makati City. The money—P1.5 million in all—will go to informants, police said.

The trio escaped from detention in Fort Bonifacio on Jan. 17 while on trial for coup d'état. The other three men had gone on absence without leave (Awol) soon after.

Belmonte was the same lawyer who was caught with rebel soldier Lt. Lawrence San Juan in Batangas last February. (See story on Page A1).

Grim looks

The six rebel officers and Belmonte wore yellow shirts and basketball shorts when presented to the media.

As they were made to stand behind Senga, Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon and Calderon, the officers grimly and defiantly looked back at the press and the other officers in the audience.

Sarmiento particularly threw dagger looks. The rest including Belmonte looked straight ahead. A couple of them showed a slight limp.

Belmonte, out on bail, is among the 48 people charged with rebellion for the Feb. 24 failed coup plot.

Magdalo Gallery

- CAPT. Nathaniel Rabonza, Philippine Military Academy Class 1995, was with the Army's Special Forces at the time of the July 2003 mutiny and facing trial for leading the mutiny; bolted Fort Bonifacio on Jan. 17.

- 1st Lt. Patricio Burmidang Jr., PMA Class '98, was with the Army's Light Armor Regiment at the time of the mutiny; also one of the Magdalo officers on trial.

- Army 1st Lt. Sonny Sarmiento, PMA Class '98, was company commander of the 1st Infantry Division at the time of the mutiny, was with Rabonza, Burmidang Jr. and Army Lt. Lawrence San Juan when they escaped from Bonifacio; also on trial for the mutiny.

- 2nd Lt. Angelbert Gay, PMA Class '97, was with the Army's 21st Infantry Battalion at the time of the mutiny; was reported to have gone missing (absent without leave) in January and eventually dropped from the rolls; among 70 officers charged with gross misconduct after their names were included in a diskette allegedly recovered after the failed mutiny.

- Army 2nd Lt. Aldrin Baldonado, PMA Class '01, reported by the Army to have gone Awol on Jan. 5, reported back on Jan. 16, but went Awol again.

- Navy Lt. Kiram Sadava, a member of the Navy's Special Operations Group.

Kate Pedroso, *PDI* Research

Who is Ador Noche?

By DJ Yap

WHO OWNS THE SAFE HOUSE

The name Ador Noche cropped up as police delved into the ownership of the house on Adler Street in Quezon City where government agents seized six Magdalo officers and two civilians.

The name appeared on a warrant bill for the house.

A security officer at the subdivision said he heard the name when a colonel called and asked him how the police could trace the name because that was what was written on the bill.

The security officer, who asked not to be identified, didn't know.

"What I know is that the owner has been abroad for a long time he told the *Inquirer*.

He said that after the raid someone who said he represented the family also called and asked that an inventory be made of the furniture in the house.

The security officer told the *Inquirer* that no furniture was missing.

None of the five male caretakers in the house could shed the smallest light on its owner. "We really can't say anything," one of the men said.

Neither could the tricycle driver in the neighborhood.

"All I know is that the owner is in a foreign country."

We Can Do It Again!

Statement of the "Hyatt 10"
July 8, 2006

Exactly a year ago from today, we tendered our collective irrevocable resignation from the Arroyo cabinet and asked President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to make the supreme sacrifice and voluntarily relinquish her office.

Today, we stand united—with deeper concern and firmer resolve—that our conviction has not changed:

- Government remains a critical arena for implementing wide-ranging reforms in our country;
- Leadership is at the heart of effective governance;
- Without credible and legitimate leadership, governance will be pushed to the margins and reforms cannot take place, much less be sustained;
- Sustained and substantial reforms can only come about if they address the systemic nature of our problems.

Over time, despite the suppression of efforts to get to the bottom of the ongoing crisis, this much is clear: widespread irregularities and illegal use of public funds attended the victory of Arroyo in the 2004 elections, extensive cover-up was perpetuated to hide the fraud and authoritarian measures were employed to stifle protest by an enraged citizenry. Thankfully, the Supreme Court rose to the occasion and affirmed the primacy of our people's fundamental civil and political rights over exaggerated threats to the security of the state.

To divert people's attention, the Palace foisted upon our people a bogus people's initiative to amend the Constitution. Deceptively, it has been presented to our people as the answer to every conceivable problem that we face. Fortunately, our people's vigilance and determination have so far frustrated this move. Moreover, the patently unconstitutional initiative has only succeeded in broadening the opposition to Arroyo's attempts to tamper with our Constitution.

And as the people's initiative heads for derailment, the Arroyo administration has unsheathed another diversionary ploy by raising the communist bogey and shifted policy in addressing the insurgency movement from negotiations to a heavy-handed, militarist approach. As we had painfully learned during the Marcos years, this approach cannot and will not succeed. It will only escalate the conflict and lead to the dislocation of and injuries and death to, not only the insurgents, but, in most cases, to journalists, church workers, peasant leaders, legitimate activists, and helpless and innocent civilians.

In this climate of fear and impunity, the Arroyo administration appears to have succeeded in frustrating our people's search for truth. It must not delude itself in thinking itself victorious, as it has proclaimed recently. There are no victors in this continuing impasse—only victims. And the biggest casualties are our deeply cynical and ever suffering poor themselves and our much weakened social, economic and political institutions.

Under these circumstances, it is almost impossible to push urgent and vital reforms without resolving the political impasse rooted in the central question of the legitimacy of President Arroyo. For this reason, we propose the following immediate measures:

1. Amend specific provisions of the Constitution to pave the way for (a) the revamp of COMELEC, (b) the holding of snap elections for the position of President, and (c) the election of delegates to a Constitutional Convention, at the same time as the May, 2007 elections;
2. Create an orderly and peaceful climate for the conduct of the above electoral exercises by (a) a temporary cessation of hostilities and laying and strengthening the ground for peace negotiations with the rebels, and (b) a joint declaration among the major forces in the political spectrum to abide by a set of conditions for the successful conduct of the above process without resort to violence and fraud;
3. Ensure basic social protection and services that will address the needs of our people for basic education, nutrition, primary health and sanitation;
4. Secure the fiscal health of the economy by improving the country's tax effort, plugging leakages in tax collection, rationalizing public expenditures, and the timely passage of a national budget; and
5. Restore people's confidence in key oversight and regulatory agencies of government and Constitutional bodies, such as the Office of the Ombudsman, the Civil Service Commission, and the Presidential Commission on Good Governance.

But, recognizing that profound and sustained systemic change is not solely the business of government but is the collective responsibility of all citizens, we also propose the convening of a multi-stakeholder assembly of leaders that will work alongside the Constitutional Convention in a dialogue process that will lead to an agenda for national reconciliation, peace, and sustained development.

In the past, we have shown our capacity to rise above our own helplessness and sense of hopelessness, surprising the world during some of our darkest moments with a demonstration of our goodness, goodwill, and courage as a people. *We can do it again!*

Forex reserves hit record \$21B in June

From page A1

Bonds in May.

The Brady Bonds were so called after Nicholas Brady, the Treasury chief of the United States during the term of President Ronald Reagan, proposed the issuance of these bonds to help heavily indebted countries like the Philippines restructure their commercial bank debt starting in the 1980s.

Ability to service debt

The GIR—consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from the International Monetary Fund and foreign investments—is an indicator of the country's ability to service the foreign exchange require-

ments of the economy like importation and debt service.

The level of reserves as of June was equivalent to about 4.3 months of imports of goods and payments of services.

"This level is also equivalent to 3.4 times the country's short-term debt based on original maturity and 1.8 times based on residual maturity," Tengco said.

Short-term debt based on residual maturity refers to outstanding external debt with original maturity of one year or less, plus principal payments on medium- and long-term loans of the public and private sectors falling due within the next 12 months.

The net international reserves, including revaluation of reserve assets and reserve-related liabilities, increased to \$20.52 billion from the end-May level of \$20.3 billion.

NIR refers to the difference between the GIR and the combined total of short-term liabilities and use of IMF credits.

Emerging strength

Nine years after the currency turmoil that depressed asset prices across the region—particularly in Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and South Korea, Southeast Asia has emerged much stronger and wiser but still isn't completely immune to potentially contagious shocks, financial experts said.

The strong buildup of foreign reserves was always being cited as among the factors behind the higher optimism on the region.

Since May, however, there was a shift in risk appetite among foreign investors away from emerging markets due to expectations of further increases in US interest rates.

'Nicole' fails to show up, suffers another breakdown

From page A1

Emilie Fe de los Santos.

It was the first deferment in the landmark trial where four US Marines stand accused and which the court intends to speed up in view of the "one-year deadline" imposed by the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

The accord states that the US government, through its embassy in Manila, is obliged to present the accused only for a year from the start of judicial proceedings.

Addressing the court, De los Santos said Nicole would be back on Monday.

But the government lawyer said the prosecution might also call back on Tuesday Dr. Raquel Fortun, a leading forensic pathologist, whose credentials as an "expert witness" were accepted by the court in a ruling issued on Thursday.

2nd time

It was only the second time Nicole failed to attend the six-week-old trial with hearings held four days a week.

"I just assessed she was not in a condition to go," private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua told the INQUIRER when reached later on the phone.

Ursua was also a no-show as she was the one assigned to transport Nicole to court.

"It's more emotional than anything. Stress and fatigue. She was really committed and wanted to go, but both of us decided [not to proceed]," Ursua said.

According to Ursua, what happened to her client is "not surprising" for victims of crime, especially rape, who are being made to recount their ordeal in court.

Speaking to court reporters, Nicole's therapist Dr. June Pagaduan-Lopez said her patient emerged "traumatized" from her first three hours at the stand on Thursday.

"This is what a victim goes through," Lopez said, adding that Ursua informed her of Nicole's condition by phone, while lawyer and client were on their way to the Makati RTC.

Exhausted

Ursua said Nicole had admitted to her that she was "exhausted and tired" from Thursday's hearing, during which the 22-year-old complainant broke down four times on direct examination, forcing repeated suspensions of the hearing.

At the stand, Nicole reacted emotionally even to questions not related to the alleged rape.

She wept at the mention of her deceased father, and again when she was asked to relate the kindness of her family to visiting US

soldiers who frequented the family-owned canteen in Zamboanga City.

Pozon adjourned the hearing an hour ahead of schedule when Nicole continued to weep while recalling her first encounter with her alleged rapist, Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith, on the night of Nov. 1, 2005.

Ursua said yesterday that Nicole was able to get some sleep on Thursday night, but that "it was a disturbed one."

Lopez said Nicole was under medication for a week in April, taking antidepressants.

Long way to go

Reminded of the one-year deadline under the VFA, Ursua said yesterday's postponement was hardly a setback for the prosecution.

"We still have a long way to go [before deadline], and there will be ample time for Nicole to take a rest," she said.

Pozon had earlier ruled that the one-year period contemplated in the VFA started on Dec. 27, 2005, when the case was originally raffled off at the Olongapo City RTC.

While the trial can proceed after that period has elapsed, the US government shall no longer be obliged under the VFA to present its accused citizen for investigative and judicial proceedings in the Philippines.

But Ursua explained that the countdown to the deadline was "suspended for 60 days" when the accused Americans petitioned the Department of Justice to review the findings of probable cause against them.

She also said that despite Nicole's failure to continue her testimony yesterday, the prosecution was not reconsidering its position to keep the hearings open to the public except during the delicate narration of the alleged rape itself.

"We thought it should remain that way for us to be transparent about what really happened to her, because some people already judged her quite harshly even before this trial began," Ursua said.

Sympathy

A member of the defense panel admitted on Thursday to taking pity on Nicole, particularly after seeing her weep several times at the stand.

"On the record, I have sympathy for her. I feel pity when I see her cry. That's why if I would still be cross-examining her, I don't want [the breakdowns] to happen as much as possible," Jose Justiniano, counsel for accused Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood, told reporters.

"But it doesn't mean I already believe her story," he added.

Bush at 60: Getting older by the minute

From page A1

long day of meetings and public appearances, including a news conference with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The president received birthday greetings from Chinese President Hu Jintao and Russian President Vladimir Putin who talked with Bush on the phone Thursday morning about North Korea's missile tests.

A shock

In speech after speech, Bush has referred to himself as the "old president—getting older by the minute, by the way"; as one of "the gray-haired folks"; as "getting older"; and as just flat-out "old."

"For many boomers, turning 60 is a fairly significant shock," said Karl Pillemeyer, a professor of human development at Cornell University. "The generation that believed it would be young forever, clearly will not. ... The boomers are having a hard time with the existential reality of life not being one open-ended opportunity after another."

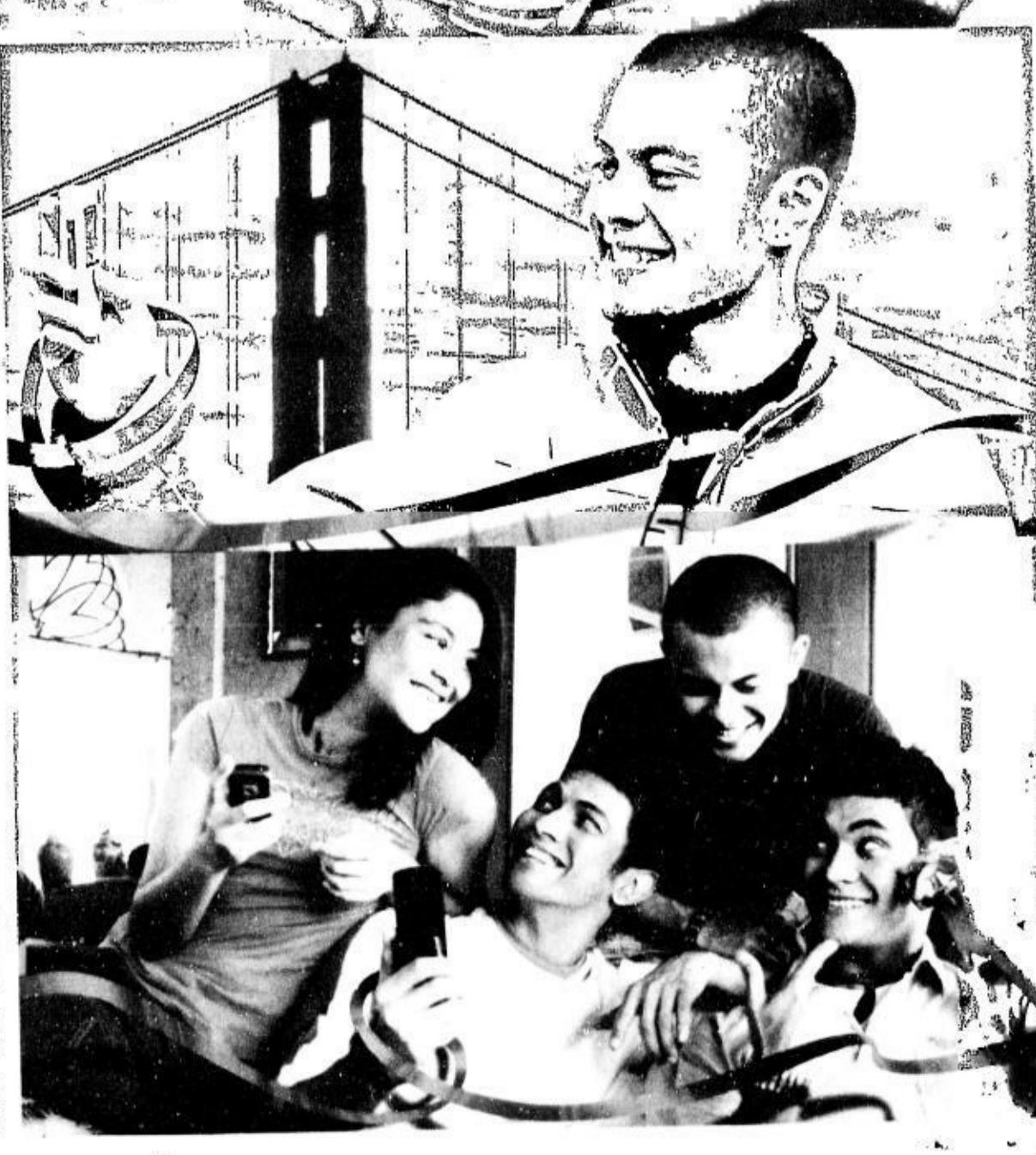
Dr. J. Edward Hill, the immediate past president of the American Medical Association and a family physician from Tupelo, Miss., has



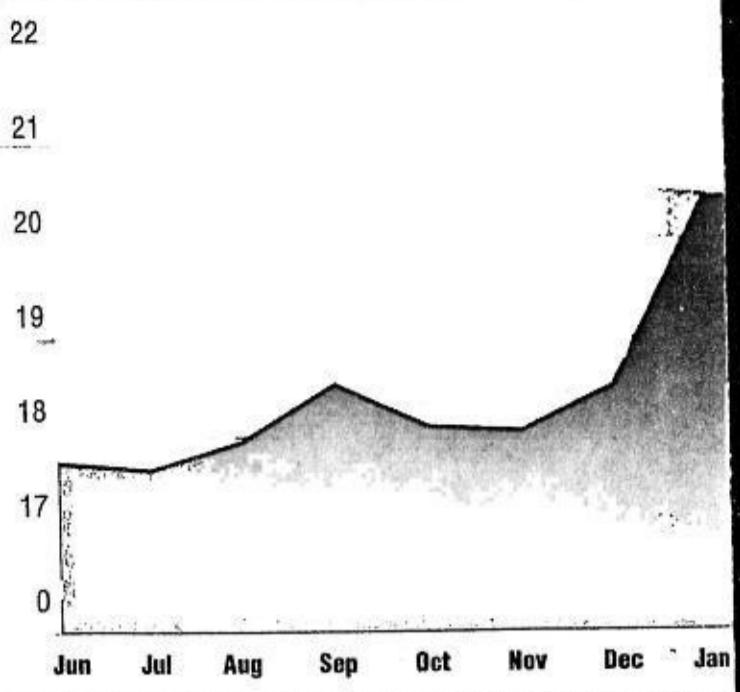
BOOMER BUSH: Flat-out old.

seen many patients display Bush's chatty angst. But he said the president's joshing around is one of the healthiest approaches.

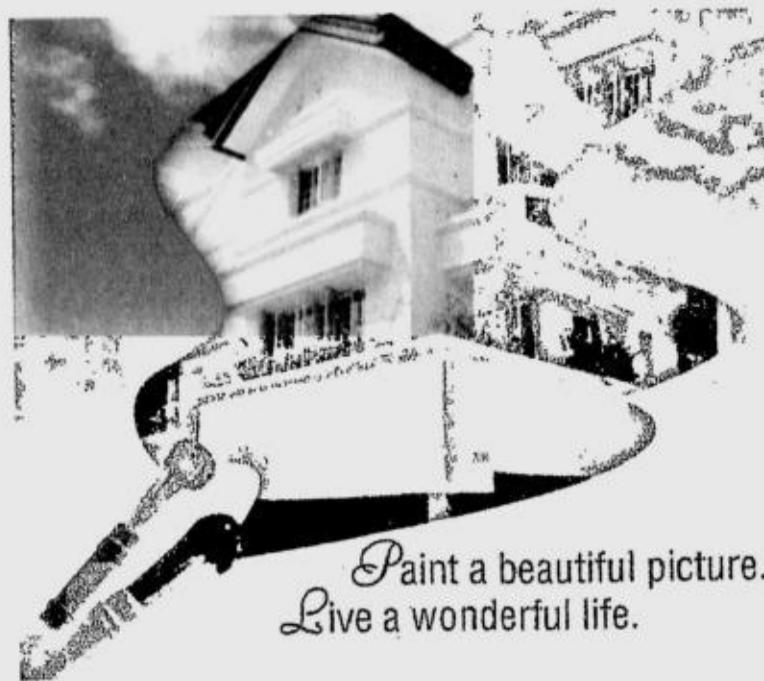
"When you worry about something, you talk about it," he said. "The stints of humor are critically important."



Gross international reserves June 2005 to June 2006, in billion US\$



"I want to stay connected to the people who make me shout for joy."



READY FOR OCCUPANCY
30% DOWNPAYMENT
BALANCE IN 10 YEARS

Cathedral Heights
TOWNHOUSES

Sta. Ignaciana St., New Manila, Quezon City
(ADJACENT TO ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER)

CALL: 416-0047 / 0927-7893177

www.cathedralheights.com.ph

Feb Mar Apr May Jun



Possible po 'yan sir dahil sa dami ng

Globe
Exclusives
Flexible choices
FOR POSTPAID & PREPAID

Whether you're on postpaid or prepaid, you get more choices, more ways to connect to your family.

Stay close with the people you love even when they're on the other side of the globe.

Globe
Tipid IDD
P7.50/min.

P7.50/min for the US and Canada.*
Available from 10 pm - 5:59 am Philippine time.
Dial 12808 <country code><area code><phone no.>

P7.50/min for Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Taiwan**
Dial 12801 <country code><mobile no.>

Get the real picture. When she says she's happy you called, you can see just how happy she really is with Globe Video IDD.

Globe
VIDEO IDD
KADA-SEGUNDO
US\$ 0.0067

Inbound and outbound video calls available to: Singapore, Malaysia, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, Hungary, Luxembourg, Poland, France, Sweden and Switzerland. Make outbound calls to Slovak, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Greece, Ireland, Norway, Spain, UK and Netherlands.

For free information, text VIDEO IDD to 2929
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3121, Series of 2006.
See flyer for more details. Promo ends July 29, 2006.

From downloads to mobile broadband to electronic payments, Globe truly gives you more.

Globe 3G
Mobile Broadband
with HSDPA

Get the fastest mobile broadband speeds in the market - up to 4x faster than residential DSL and as much as 25x faster than dialup!
Call Globe 211 or the Globe Hotline 730-1000 for details.

ASK

Get easy access to a wide array of download content.
Text your questions or download content inquiries to 2754 (A-S-K-G on your keypad).
Ex: Text MYMP ringback and send to 2754

GLOBE G CASH
wallet on any cellphone mo

Turn your cellphone into an electronic wallet. You can even send and receive cash or make payments via text.
For free information, text HELP and send to 2882.

Globe Share a Load

Send load to loved ones anytime, anywhere.
Text <amount> and send to 2+10-digit prepaid phone number.
Ex: 2915XXXXXX

MYGLOBE

Mobile or web based portal to the latest product innovations and news relevant to all Globe subscribers.
Log on to www.myglobe.com.ph.

opo chief, ang lakas mo sa **Globe**

Perfect for short chats like "I'll be home soon" or "I'll pick you up at the driveway of the mall."

P0.10 PER SECOND

Diyes sentimos kada-segundo
Dial 232 +10-digit Globe no. Ex: 232917XXXXXX

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1818, Series of 2006.
See flyer for details. Promo ends July 22, 2006.

P10 per 3-minute call

For Postpaid subscribers, P3.33/min. after the 3rd minute

(Globe-to-Globe)

Dial 235 +10-digit Globe no. Ex: 235917XXXXXX
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1078, Series of 2006.
See flyer for details. Promo ends July 15, 2006.



Two women, two wars

ALL THE OOHING AND AAHING OVER WARREN Buffett's grand gesture of donating \$37 billion to charity must have gotten to Imelda Marcos. So, she just had to match the world's second-richest man's philanthropy or even possibly raise the ante. But while Buffett put a price tag on his good deed, Marcos chose to leave it to others to imagine the scale of her generosity.

Still there can only be one word to describe her next enterprise: Imeldific.

EDITORIAL The week Buffett announced to the world that he was giving away three-fourths of his \$44-billion wealth, Marcos told Time magazine: "I'll come up with a project that will wipe out poverty here in two years. I want to remove the people from economic crisis by using the Marcos wealth. Long after I'm gone, people will remember me for building them homes and roads and hospitals and giving them food."

If Marcos pulls it off, that would perhaps be one of the greatest economic miracles the world has ever seen. In 2003 when the last survey was done, one out of every four Filipinos lived below the poverty line, according to the National Statistical Coordination Board. That meant a total of 23.8 million people couldn't scrape up the P34 they needed daily for their food, clothing and other necessities. With no dramatic changes occurring in the last three years, it can be assumed that the ranks of the poor have swelled by a couple of hundred thousands or so in the meantime. And that is the number of people Imelda Marcos promises to rescue from poverty in two years' time.

But Marcos, who once boasted that her family owned practically all of the country's blue-chip companies, has no doubts about her family's capacity to deliver on the promise. She said that even before her husband, Ferdinand Marcos, entered politics, he already had "tons and tons of gold." When Bill Gates (now the world's richest man) was still nothing but a college dropout, she said, "Ferdinand already possessed billions of dollars and tons of gold."

Fantastic? Some people, top officials of the Arroyo administration included, don't think so. On the contrary, it must have been such talk about fabulous riches in the Marcos family's possession that had PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede drooling and panting for a compromise agreement that would absolve the Marcoses from any criminal liability for amassing ill-gotten wealth during the dictator's 20-year reign. With the Marcos widow talking billions—in dollars yet—the agency that was established to recover the Marcos family's ill-gotten wealth promptly forgot about good government and focused on the commission.

To no avail. Now that Marcos has her latest inspiration, she has told the PCGG to forget about a settlement. And so everyone must now wait with bated breath for the promised miracle to unfold. Except that as Marcos herself has acknowledged, she appears to be "a bit touched in the head," to some people at least.

Maybe she is, but her two-year war on poverty actually looks saner than another war that another lady vowed to finish in exactly the same number of years: President Macapagal-Arroyo's war against the communist insurgency. Last month, Ms Arroyo announced that the government was done with talking with the communist National Democratic Front and was launching an "all-out war" against the New People's Army. Simultaneously she ordered the release of P1 billion to the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to augment their fighting capacity.

Marcos could have told Ms Arroyo a thing or two about fighting the communists. One is that throwing P1 billion more to improve the war machine and adding a few battalions won't win the war. Her husband spent billions and marshaled the entire AFP to crush the communist rebels and ended up 17 years later with a much wider and stronger insurgency. Second is that the government is committing the same mistakes as the dictatorship not only by marching into war but by tolerating, if not abetting, the abduction and killing of leftist leaders and students, thus adding fuel to the insurgency.

While Marcos vows to win the war on poverty, hers is in fact the more effective strategy in the war against the communist rebellion. In fighting insurgency, nothing works better than improving the lives of those who have nothing to lose if they fight for change.

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
 Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANO
 Managing Editor JOSE M. D. NOLASCO
 Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY

Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCIELANO
 News Editor ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR. • Chief, News Day Desk NILO B. PAUROM

Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARATA

National Editor PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.

Senior Desk Editor JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.

Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA

Chief Photographer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

Board Chairman MARIXI R. PRIETO

President ALEXANDRA PRISTO-ROMUALDEZ

Executive Vice President DAVID O. VALDES

Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO

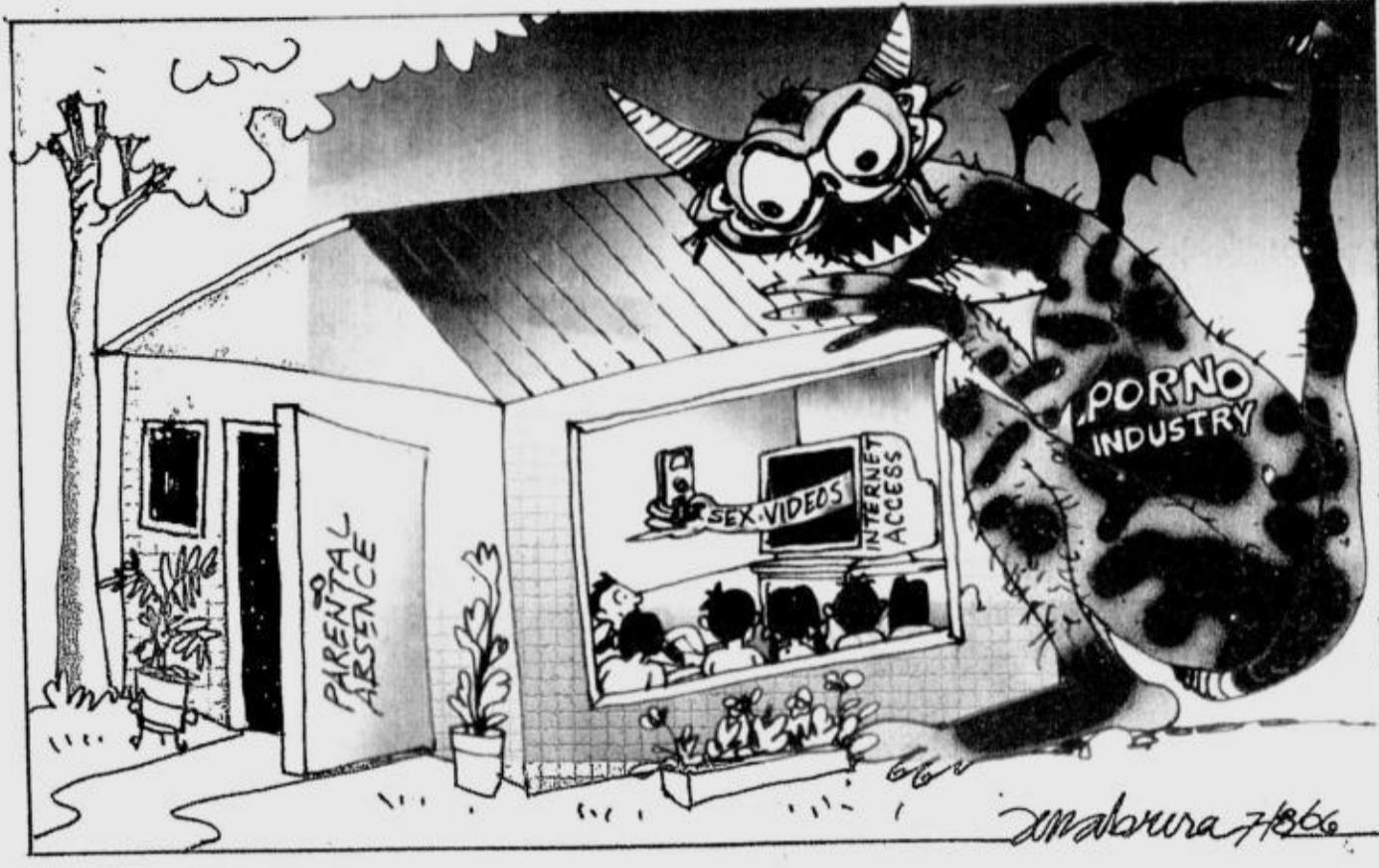
VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE

AVP for Circulation SANDY SIMON R. YAP

Readers' Advocate LORNA KALAW TIROL

readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8000, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



A political certainty

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



I CAN UNDERSTAND THE CLEVER MANEUVERS of the Malacañang death squads to protect Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from the several impeachment complaints that have been or will still be filed against her. Their vigilance is, of course, on her orders. They are strictly instructed to take every single step to defeat her impeachment again, which may not be as unsuccessful this year as it was last year.

All her forces are on red alert, from her legal strategists to her political satraps whose most compelling purpose is to insure their own survival as dependent on her durability as the claimed duly-elected leader of the nation. The sumptuous banquet they are now enjoying will disappear like a Barmecide feast if their hostess is deservedly evicted from the Palace of the People where she is sitting on a wobbly throne.

She is taking the posture of the injured innocent who is being harassed with absurd allegations without factual or legal basis. She protests at her foes are maliciously preventing her from discharging her urgent duties to protect the nation from its many serious problems. Instead of cooperating with her, they have opposed her at every turn with puerile gripes not worth considering or denying.

The charges against her are certainly not foolish. Her challenged acts constitute valid grounds for impeachment as culpable violation of the Constitution, bribery, graft and corruption, other high crimes and betrayal of public trust. In fact, her very title as President of the Philippines is the principal question being raised against her with the heavy evidence she has simply dismissed as already resolved and passé.

This blanket accusation covers all the other misdeeds imputable to her as the compelling excuse for her ejection from the office she is unlawfully holding despite the resounding de-

mand for her resignation.

There are none so deaf as those who will not hear, and Ms Arroyo is their leader. The cry for her removal is heard throughout the land, but all she hears is total silence. This is characteristic of the woman who ran for President in 2004 and did not choose to hear the ear-splitting reminder that she had solemnly sworn not to do so in 2003, before the monument of Rizal.

The decent thing she should do is face the serious charges against her like a man instead of evading them like a... coward. This artless dodging of the attacks against her integrity is unworthy of the sterling public official she professes to be.

If she really has nothing to hide and can refute all the charges against her as utter balderdash, she should welcome the formal investigation her critics are demanding. There she can try to expose their base motives as treasonous acts designed to undermine our democracy and surrender it to the enemies of our Republic.

When a person is attacked by a legislator under the protection of his parliamentary immunity, the usual reaction of the victim is to challenge his adversary to repeat his slanderous remarks outside the halls of Congress. The challenge is seldom met, which may be an indication of the falsity of the alleged misdeed. Ms Gloria cannot make a similar demand, of course. But she can allow the charges against

her to be formally investigated in the Senate, where she will have the opportunity to prove, if she can, that they are mere mendacities.

This courageous stance will enable her to show the weakness of the attempts to force her removal and, no less importantly, to prove that she is worthy, by reason of her honest election and her blameless official acts, to be and remain the President of the Philippines. Moreover, such a statesmanlike voluntariness will lessen disharmony among our people, whatever be the judgment in her case, and enable us, as she herself would say, to go forward together to better times.

But she will not take this bold decision because it is fraught with peril to her real intentions. The truth is a fearful opponent. This is the reason she issued her EO 464 and PP 1017 preventing her subordinates from making damaging revelations in the legislative investigations of executive excesses and shortcomings. Although all but two of its members have not been appointed by her, the Supreme Court had no choice but to declare the measures unconstitutional.

To date, however, her underlings continue to evade the legislative probes on the ground that their motions for reconsideration have not yet been resolved with the usual "DF"—denied with finality.

Even now, the cheering squads of Glorifiers are already crowing that their opponents lack the needed one-third vote in the House of Representatives to impeach their deity and the two-thirds vote in the Senate to convict her. They say that the rout of the impeach-Gloria movement is not only a distinct probability but, indeed, a political certainty. Maybe so. But even unbelievable miracles can happen, like the manna from heaven that fed the famished pilgrims to the Promised Land.

Patriotism, true or false

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



ing to use them as criteria for distinguishing true from false patriotism, we should now be in a position to answer the question above. But there is some confusion that still has to be cleared up: the people Señeres named as having worked with him in committing the patriotic act—a plot to depose President Macapagal-Arroyo, which involved a call for the military to withdraw support from her, then the installation of a transition government—are none too eager to acknowledge their participation.

They (apparently, including Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, who submitted an affidavit to the National Bureau of Investigation) have in fact categorically denied any involvement. That videotape makes it rather difficult for Lim to sustain that denial. But with respect to the others—A. Cojuangco, O. Orbor, R. De Villa, I. Zobel—it's a he-says-they-say situation, with no hard evidence presented. (Señeres is very fond of saying "I know for a fact," and then making an assertion.) Whether he is or they are the ones lying is at this point a matter of pure conjecture. So in the interest of fairness, we should just limit the question to Señeres and Danilo Lim. Are they true or false patriots?

Going through those criteria, one tends to get mixed signals: On the "false" side, one sees a lot of appeal to the emotions, false choices, willingness to ignore the law, exploitation or misuse of the Constitution, division. At the same time, one sees very little sacrifice. On the "true" side, there does not seem to be any partisanship or cynicism. There is definitely no love for, but a lot of watching of the government.

Another quote comes from an "Author Unknown":

5. "A true patriot does not love his government. The true patriot loves his COUNTRY and WATCHES his government." If we accept those distinctions, or are will-

The crunch issue has to do with love of country. Does that attempt to depose the President show love of country? Here is where one has serious doubts. The objective of their "withdrawal of support" was "to end her unconstitutional and illegal occupation of the presidency." They also cited her mad desire for power "that has led to corruption and destruction of all institutions, including the Supreme Court, the Commission on Elections, the mass media, some members of the military, the police and the clergy," plus the teachers who counted the vote in the 2004 elections. That's long bill of particulars, without citing evidence.

But let us assume that these are all true, and that "withdrawal of support" and deposing Ms Arroyo are justified, does the formation of transition government or council—with members chosen by Lim et al., in blatant disregard of the constitutionally mandated law of succession—show love of country and an intent to promote the greater good?

That's where their "patriotism" is unmasked for what it truly is: a naked grab for power, disregard for the Constitution and the law, deliberate substitution of the people's choice with their own choice (the I-know-better-than-the-people-what's-good-for-them syndrome).

Their naked attempt to grab power was not only aimed at Ms Arroyo but at the people themselves; it was at the same time an attack against the people, using arms supplied by the people.

At least Señeres admitted that he was involved in the plot (proud of it, even—when goes to show how easy it is to rationalize). Lim lied about it. This man, so greatly admired by many, seems not to have outgrown his penchant for military adventurism—all under the guise of idealism and love of country—a doesn't have the courage to admit it.

Of course, if everyone else were judged under these criteria, many would fail. Pretend to love their country, when all they love themselves. Scoundrels.

Déjà vu all over again

"MARCOS PLAYS PULPIT POLITICS."

The headline jumped at me from a clipping filed away almost 30 years ago. Yet it had a contemporary ring in view of the current hullabaloo about the Church's "meddling in politics."

In other ways also, the present situation recalls that of the 1970s and early 1980s. We find the government branding its critics as "leftists," much as Marcos tried to convince the world that "all of my enemies are communists." Moreover, as the Catholic hierarchy becomes more critical of the administration, we find the President hurrying off to Rome to receive the Pope's blessing and to claim his support, as Imelda Marcos did on more than one occasion. Again we find the President's supporters selectively quoting a papal encyclical supposedly "infallible" (a ridiculous claim for anyone who knows any theology), just as the Marcos people cited a Roman document written in very different circumstances to "prove" that Catholics were obliged to vote in one of Marcos' sham elections. More importantly, the continuing murders of "leftists" and the government's inability or unwillingness to put an end to them, recall the "salvaging" of the Marcos years.

Interestingly, those most loudly insisting on the separation of Church and State appear to have exceedingly short memories. Have they forgotten the photographs of the swearing in of President Macapagal-Arroyo on Jan. 20, 2001, at the EDSA Shrine, with Jaime Cardinal Sin standing close to her? Or the facts that without the cardinal's very vocal support, the impeachment case against her predecessor would never have gotten off the ground, nor would the momentum have been sustained that led to her succession?

Going back a bit further, they might recall the Philippine bishops' "pastoral exhortation" before the "snap election" of 1986 which warned that those who might try to subvert the election by fraud or violence would sin gravely and "make themselves unworthy of the Body of the Lord."

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

Again in their "post-election statement," the bishops gave their considered opinion that the election had failed, stated that if this were true, the election gave no moral right for the administration to continue in power, and called on the people to evaluate the situation and, if they found the bishops' judgment on the facts to be correct, then to take steps to right the wrong that had been done. Finally, there was the crucial support of the hierarchy to the newly installed and shaky regimes of both Cory Aquino and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. If this was meddling, most Filipinos would say, "Thank God for it."

What then are we to make of it all? First, there is no "infallible" teaching on relations between Church and State. These relations evolved over time to the point at which Pope John Paul II spoke of the Church valuing "the democratic system inasmuch as it ensures the participation of citizens in making political choices, guarantees to the governed the possibility both of electing and holding accountable those who govern them, and of replacing them through peaceful means when appropriate." ("Centesimus Annus," No. 40)

The present Pope adds that while it is not the right nor the duty of the Church to replace the State, yet it "cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice." ("Deus Est Caritas," No. 28) The primary responsibility of the hierarchy is to "proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it" as Paul ordered his disciple. (2 Tim. 4:2)

Pope Benedict XVI and those before him have

also insisted that it is the primary responsibility of the lay faithful to be active in the political arena, while the bishops provide a moral center and a center of unity. This the Philippine bishops attempted to do in their "Post-Election Statement" of February 1986, in which they provided the moral principles and gave their own estimate of the facts, but left to the people the decision as to what was to be done.

Yet, when the institutions which should protect the people are subverted and the whole nation is in crisis, a Church which claims to speak for justice and human rights cannot not be actively involved. This realization struck me vividly during those days at EDSA in February of 1986. I carried with me a little transistor radio and periodically tuned in to Radio Veritas which, despite having had its transmitter destroyed by Marcos' allies, was still broadcasting instructions to the crowd by means of borrowed transmitters. Occasionally, I tuned in also to a non-Catholic religious station, and found it playing only music! Perhaps my judgment was unfair, but at the time this struck me as a statement of irrelevance; its Gospel, it seemed, had nothing to say to a people in crisis.

Cardinal Sin and others saw this and took the lead. The people responded with two nonviolent revolutions.

Today the nation faces a situation in which the structures which are intended to support the participation of citizens and the accountability of those who govern—key values of democracy, according to Pope John Paul II—have been undermined and have lost credibility. One thinks of the Commission on Elections, the oversight powers of Congress, the impeachment process and the Office of the Ombudsman. The bishops cannot stand on the sidelines in the face of these threats. Especially because at the heart of the storm is someone whom the hierarchy itself helped to put in power.

We are all Nicole

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

AROUND American soldiers that when she and two of her sisters were invited by a family friend, US Navy Petty Officer Christopher Mills, to a vacation in Subic, they agreed to go, though they insisted on paying for their plane fare.

Other Filipinas might be leery of being seen with American servicemen, especially in Subic and Olongapo, for fear of being mistaken for sex workers. But Nicole had no such prejudice or reason to fear the Americans. Mingling and making friends with soldiers were normal for her, and since no one had abused the friendship they offered, she had no reason to keep them at arm's length. So when a Marine she didn't know grabbed her arm and asked her to dance with him, she agreed but only after Mills silently nodded—a signal that she could trust the Marine.

IN A REPORT in this paper, Dr. June Pagaduan-Lopez, who provides counseling support for Nicole and her family, surmised that Nicole may have found the testimony "painful" not only because it forced her to re-live the events of that night but also because "she felt betrayed."

Was Nicole in fact naive in the extreme in traveling to Subic at the invitation of a serviceman friend? Was she reckless in downing drink after drink offered by Mills to her and her sister while they were out having a good time? And could her possibly inebriated state have led the accused Marines to believe she was willing to have sex with one—or all—of them?

As far as I know, naivete is not a crime, nor is recklessness. And if every young woman who gets soused and wasted in the course of a good time deserves to be raped, then we would rack up rape

statistics far worse than South Africa's.

Doesn't Nicole's story just make you want to tear up? In many ways, we are all like Nicole in our relations with Americans: naive, trusting in their innate goodness, blind to their human frailties—or geo-political pragmatism, but, unlike Nicole, intimidated into silence and passivity.

True, our relations with the United States have undergone a major revamp through the decades, especially after the termination of the bases agreement. But even today, in crafting our foreign policies and in interpreting the Visiting Forces Agreement, we tend to bend over backwards to accommodate the Americans, and rush to satisfy their demands and interests.

THANKS to the policy of benevolent assimilation, Filipinos of this and previous generations have always related to Americans and the American government in much the same way that Nicole and her family dealt with the American servicemen frequenting their canteen.

We assumed they could be trusted. We believed that they had our interests in mind when they asked us to be their allies. And even when we were led into dangerous ventures—such as sending troops to Korea, Vietnam and Iraq—we justified the risk by saying we would at least be amply compensated by our wealthier friends.

And when they abused our hospitality—by locking Filipinos out of our own territory, as they did with the bases they maintained; and aiding, abetting and even financing the growth of sex industry centers clustered around the bases—we still looked the other way and said that in the long term, we benefited economically from the bases.

We did have our "Nicole-moment." That day when the Philippine Senate voted to reject the RP-US bases agreement. But even that resounding victory for the nationalist cause would ultimately be eroded by the VFA and the continuing presence of the American military on our soil. Which just goes to show that when Americans want to f—k with you, they'll f—k you any which way.

own gas deal with Myanmar.

South Korea has, of course, joined the scramble. President Roh Moo-hyun visited Malaysia and agreed to expand mutual economic cooperation mainly in information technology, bio-technology and energy. Roh reportedly also discussed exporting defense materials worth \$2.3 billion, including training aircraft, destroyers and armed vehicles. Moreover, in January 2006, Korean Defense Minister Yoon Kwang-ung agreed with the Philippines to deliver two used patrol boats.

In this crowded power play, only Japan is left out, choosing for the most part to remain aloof and cultivate its relations with the United States, which is now to supply anti-missile technology to counter the North Korean threat. But, despite the deep historical animosity generated by World War II, there are increasing calls in the region for Japan to expand its influence to counterbalance China. In reality, Japan is not ready for this, because it still strongly adheres to "self-imposed restraints" against "influence over other countries in security and defense," including weapons exports.

In the 1960s, as its economic takeoff was proceeding, Japan initiated a serious dialogue with regional players, aiming to build stronger relations with countries that it had once conquered and occupied. It is no overstatement to say that those efforts, which boosted trade and investment in the region, formed the foundation of Japan's national power today. But now Japan's political and economic influence in Southeast Asia is gradually declining, owing in part to its failure to exert influence over security and defense matters.

At the time of regional uncertainty about North Korea and China—including the looming prospect of China's first aircraft carrier—Japan's participation in the evolving Asian security framework is fundamental to stability. The time when Japan could remain on the sidelines is over.

Project Syndicate

WORLD VIEW

Hideaki Kaneda



these improved relations, Indonesia has received Chinese short-range missile technology.

The possibility that Southeast Asia's governments might begin to play America and China off against each other is among the concerns that most animate the latest US quadrennial defense review, which is intended to "focus on the Pacific Ocean" in awareness of China's growing naval power. Undoubtedly, the United States will try to build closer ties with Indonesia through greater military cooperation, because Indonesia borders the region's key sea lanes.

In particular, Indonesia will inevitably become involved in the tug-of-war between the United States and China for influence over the vitally important Malacca Strait. Because China must import vast quantities of oil through the Malacca Strait, this sea lane has become a central element in the country's security strategy. For this reason, China is attempting to use economic and military aid as leverage to improve relations even with countries with which it has had military confrontations in the past, like Vietnam and the Philippines.

India is now joining the military build-up. It has actively led regional multilateral joint exercises, such as the naval joint exercise that India's navy hosted in the Andaman Sea, in the eastern Indian Ocean, earlier this year. Nine Asian-Pacific countries took part, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

Both India and China are seeking greater influence over the strategically important country of Burma (Myanmar). For example, after Burma signed in 2005 an agreement to supply China with natural gas, India responded by cutting its

Crazy vow

A HUGE PART OF MY LIFE STARTED WITH A PROMISE I made to my dad. In our family chronicle, women have always been regarded as fragile and needing protection. Daughters are guarded, not in the physical sense, but with regard to their social and emotional involvement because of a long history of early pregnancies, elopements and untimely marriages. The contract I had with my dad thus made him smile from ear to ear.

It was a really serious and extremely courageous commitment to make. And when I told him I

would do it, I had no idea that committing myself to a promise

not to fall in love

while in a college

could be torture.

YOUNG BLOOD

Steffy

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

When I entered

the campus of the University of the Philippines, Los Baños, I was determined to become a successful student. I told myself I would go to my classes 10 minutes early, spend weekends in the library doing assignments and papers in advance and hang out in fast-food chains only to discuss with classmates the week's lessons. Then I would join my friends to watch good movies, release my passions on extra-curricular activities and take pictures of myself waving in historical places. Little did I know that my new environment would make it very hard for me to fulfill the deal I struck with my dad.

I met good guys in college, and I was thankful for it because about 90 percent of them were genuinely kind and pleasant, although I cannot say I was really grateful for having so many temptations. I enjoyed driving around with one cute musician who drew lots of women toward him without even trying. I often played with a charming athlete who could be any girl's crush. And I had an extremely fun guy best friend whom any girl would have been proud to have as a full-time beau.

The UPLB campus, with its beautiful views and lush greens, is a recreation of romantic scenes straight from the movies. Countless times I would walk on fallen white petals and golden brown leaves and feel the cool breeze from the mountain envelope me. My heart would leap at the thought that such moments were perfect for sharing with someone. And every time I had this sentimental seizure, I would respond to prospective relationships by sending cute quotes on my mobile phone to a close guy friend (although now I feel embarrassed that I ever did such things).

It would have been nice to sit in a café, talking endlessly with him about how interesting life can be. On special occasions, it would have been exhilarating to receive beautiful letters professing overflowing love. I would have felt safer if someone was watching over me. Lunches would have been more delightful if he had ordered my favorite food for me. And it would have been dreamlike to fall under the spell of the stars under the clear night sky with him beside me.

But all these I missed because of an oath I now can't believe I took seriously.

Still, the reality of my situation was that I spent my time the way I wanted to without anybody telling me I couldn't do this or that. I got to go to hot springs and got drowned in rides in an amusement park without having to drag anybody with me. I got to give my smile to any guy I liked, without a jealous somebody nagging me afterwards. I enjoyed studying and group meetings without being distracted by worries about where somebody was. I got to give a lot of time to my girl friends and filled my memories with the most fun times of my life.

There were indeed a lot of things I missed because I made that promise to my dad, but when I think about it, I could have missed a lot also if I hadn't. Unfortunately because of that promise and my struggle to remain single, people found me odd. (If they knew my real reason, they would have considered me even more unusual.)

But then I remember my dad saying, "Almost one-fourth of your life you get to spend for yourself, and the rest of the time you do everything with someone else." Those words were my source of enlightenment and I have never regretted the time I gave to myself alone.

I cannot say I am an exemplary daughter because I made such a difficult promise and kept it in spite of all the temptations and the sacrifices it required. Struggling not to have a boyfriend while in college was no joke, especially because I was thousands of kilometers away from home. What kept me going was my belief that I had nothing to give my parents but the assurance that even when they were not looking, I would still be a good girl. Having kept my word, I truly believe I was.

Steffy, 23, works in an advertising agency.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Excess supply

"We aren't suffering from a shortage of overly ambitious politicians and so I prefer not to add to the excess supply."

—Sen. Francis Pangilinan, brushing off speculations that he is aspiring to become President

Solved

"Simply filing a murder case is not the same as solving it."

—Ann Cooper, executive director of New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, in a letter to the President, regarding the killing of journalists in the Philippines

Body and soul

"Jesus became a man and in becoming a man he assumed a body, taking care not only of souls but also of the bodies."

—New Papal Nuncio Archbishop Fernando Filoni, saying it is the duty of the Church to speak out on issues that concern the people

The INQUIRER is a member of the

PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

The National Association of Philippine Newspapers



these improved relations, Indonesia has received Chinese short-range missile technology.

The possibility that Southeast Asia's governments might begin to play America and China off against each other is among the concerns that most animate the latest US quadrennial defense review, which is now to supply anti-missile technology to counter the North Korean threat. But, despite the deep historical animosity generated by World War II, there are increasing calls in the region for Japan to expand its influence to counterbalance China.

In reality, Japan is not ready for this, because it still strongly adheres to "self-imposed restraints" against "influence over other countries in security and defense," including weapons exports.

In the 1960s, as its economic takeoff was proceeding, Japan initiated a serious dialogue with regional players, aiming to build stronger relations with countries that it had once conquered and occupied.

It is no overstatement to say that those efforts, which boosted trade and investment in the region, formed the foundation of Japan's national power today. But now Japan's political and economic influence in Southeast Asia is gradually declining, owing in part to its failure to exert influence over security and defense matters.

At the time of regional uncertainty about North Korea and China—including the looming prospect of China's first aircraft carrier—Japan's participation in the evolving Asian security framework is fundamental to stability. The time when Japan could remain on the sidelines is over.

Project Syndicate

Hideaki Kaneda, a retired vice admiral of Japan's Self Defense Forces, is director of the Okazaki Institute in Tokyo.

Anti-graft fund not enough

AS AN ORDINARY CITIZEN OF this country who sacrificed so much to send my six sons and three daughters to college, I see no logic in President Macapagal-Arroyo's move setting aside P1 billion for the fight against graft and corruption.

Everybody knows that this social cancer, which eats up almost 30 percent of the people's money, is deeply rooted in our system, and no amount of money will be enough to eradicate it. Unless the administration is sincere in running after the rotten apples in government,

the P1 billion will only go to the pockets of the corrupt.

With countless families living in hunger and more than 200,000 children roaming the streets for a living, it would be better to allocate that amount to a livelihood program that would alleviate their sufferings.

And in order to totally eradicate graft and corruption in government, this administration should pursue without letup its lifestyle check on all officials and employees, whether or not they are close relatives of the powers-that-be.

Charter change is not a remedy to the alarming problem of graft and corruption. The merging of the executive and legislative powers in a unicameral parliamentary system of government will only do away with the time-honored check-and-balance principle that rein in co-equal branches of government from abusing power; it will only nurture this decades-old social cancer.

—TRINIDAD ESTURAS-PETEZA,
JP Rizal Street,
Barangay Camambagan,
Daet, Camarines Norte

Correcting mistakes will be better for high court

ON NEAL H. CRUZ'S COLUMN on the Supreme Court's fallibility (PDI, 6/14/06), may I say that it's about time—in fact, it's long overdue—that the Court admitted its errors and corrected them. Admitting a mistake is not a sign of weakness but of noble character. No one, individual or institution, should perpetuate mistakes like those mentioned by Cruz.

The Court's reluctance, if not aversion, to correct its own errors is rooted, as I see it, in pride, if not self-righteousness. Many perceive the tribunal as an ivory tower from where pronouncements are made as if ex cathedra.

Take its decisions on BP 22 (bouncing checks law). It has been the Court's consistent ruling

that the intent or good faith of the drawer/issuer of a check is immaterial insofar as violations of the statute are concerned. In one case, it declared loud and clear: "(T)he history of the enactment of subject statute evinces the definite legislative intent to make the prohibition all embracing ... all without distinction as to the purpose of the issuance of the checks."

The violation of BP 22, said the Court, is *malum prohibitum*; thus, intent or good faith is not a defense. This is wrong because the legislative intent is just the opposite. Pertinent portions of the deliberations on then Cabinet Bill No. 9 show that "good faith which would negate the intent to commit the prohibited act" is a defense.

Take, for another, the Mandatorily Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) which the Court has imposed on lawyers, particularly private practitioners, regardless of age and physical condition.

This is not a brief against the Court, which has recently reined the dictatorial tendencies of the de facto Arroyo administration, with its laudable decisions on PP 1017, EO 464, and CPR. This letter is written in the hope that, as earlier stated, the Court will soon correct its own mistakes—for the good of all concerned. It's never too late to do it, and the Supreme Court will be better for it.

—MAXIMINO NOBLE III,
3/F Prudential Bank Bldg.,
Chino Roces St., Makati City

Lamentable majority, unbelievable minority

I LAMENT THE DEEPENING SILENCE of the majority of Filipino youth amid the grinding poverty, graft and corruption in government, moral decline, destruction of cultural treasures and the suppression of basic rights in our country. I can't believe that only a minority of

our countrymen are appalled by the evils now stalking our land.

Someone should remind us that to be nationalistic is not only to be anti-imperialist. It also means being vigilant and being advocates of truth.

We call on all Filipino youth who

are afraid to air what they feel about our country to stand up and fight the evils in the government! May our Lord God provide us with everything we need to destroy these evils and restore our nation.

—EDWARD FELIX M. DONATO,
Parañaque City

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail

readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Gridlocks our last best hope

"THE SENATE," INQUIRER'S JUNE 13 editorial, came as a timely reminder. The drumbeaters of Charter change don't seem to get it. They insist that in a unicameral parliamentary system: (1) elections will be less costly for both the country and the candidates themselves, (2) there will be less political accommodation and payback, and (3) gridlocks (between the two houses and between the legislature and the executive) will be eliminated, thus ensuring efficient governance and legislation.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will serve the nation much better if she uses that amount to feed the increasing millions of Filipinos who suffer from hunger due to government neglect. After all, the administration has a lot of catching up to do on the problems in education, health and other basic services.

The additional deployment of soldiers in certain parts of the country will only mean more human rights violations especially against indigenous peoples (IPs) whose communities in the hinterlands are considered by the military as NPA havens.

To date, more than 33,000 cases of human rights violations, including bombings, abductions, indiscriminate firing and killings have been documented. More than 80 of these were politically motivated and had as victims leaders of IPs—the latest of whom was Markus Bangit, a Kalinga peace pact holder and a mass leader of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA).

The IPs are wondering why the defense of their ancestral lands and their fight for survival have been criminalized and tagged as insurgent. Despite their call for genuine peace in their communities, the Philippine government remains deaf and silent.

A billion-peso project is worth nothing if it will not redound to the welfare of the people. If it would only lead to more human rights violations and the disappearance of IP tribes, then it does not deserve any support from the people.

—RODERICK CARPIO,
Kabataan para sa
Tribung Pilipino (Katribu),
Mapagbigay Street,
Barangay Central, Dilliman, QC

REGARDING THE ADDITIONAL P1 billion that the President has allocated for the government's campaign against insurgency, I, as a private individual with a small business, am concerned with revolutionary taxation.

The "revolutionary taxes" imposed by the leftists are a form of harassment. I know that the New People's Army torches the establishments of small businessmen who fail to give in to its demands. In some instances, the owners themselves are killed.

people the power that is rightfully theirs.

Ever wondered why the United States adopted a republican system with three co-equal branches of government? Henry G. Weaver, in his book "The Mainspring of Human Progress," explains why the founding fathers, alarmed by the plight of the peoples of the Old World and by the despotic regimes in Europe, chose to separate man's three powers of thinking, acting and deciding: the thinking was given to the legislature (divided into two chambers for further check and balance), the acting to the executive (for the implementation of the laws), and the deciding to the judiciary or Supreme Court as the final arbiter of questions of law. They decided for the separation of powers knowing that man and governments (which are run by men) fall prey to ambition and greed. The saying "Absolute power corrupts absolutely" was as true in their times as it is today.

Gridlocks are not the problem. In fact, they are our last best hope of ensuring that our elected officials will behave and put our interests before theirs. But Fidel V. Ramos, Jose de Venecia and Sigaw Ng "Bayad" spokesperson Raul Lambino don't seem to get this.

—MANNY MONTEALEGRE,
7 Greenfields St.,
Capitol Green Village,
Quezon City 1116

P1-B fund reassures businessmen

This is one reason for us to support the government's drive against communists and other terrorist groups.

The P1 billion will be a real big help for the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police in their counterinsurgency drive. It somehow reassures innocent civilians and businessmen of better government protection from the NPA.

—SAYRE ESPULGAR,
serge1headliners@yahoo.com



All-New Global Car

SWIFT

2006 (RJC) CAR OF THE YEAR

Special Achievement Award "Most Fun"
Car of the Year Japan 2005-2006

Good Design
GOOD DESIGN AWARD

2 YEARS
FREE SERVICE
20,000 kms.
whichever comes first

3 YEARS
WARRANTY
100,000 kms.

It's playtime! Go sporty. Get behind the wheels of the new SUZUKI SWIFT. Take a cut away from the ordinary with its eye-catching looks, sparkling performance, nimble handling, and an upbeat interior that's as practical as it is stylish.

Drive now and have some serious fun.

SUZUKI
Way of Life!

METRO MANILA
SUZUKI AUTO COMMONWEALTH
43 Commonwealth Avenue,
Quezon City
951-2201 to 10

SUZUKI AUTO KALOOKAN
198 EDSA cor. Tandang Sora St.,
Kalookan City
364-2029/365-2029 / 285-3011/305-1796
374-30-11 / 411-27-20

SUZUKI AUTO QUEZON AVE.
Manor Bldg., Araneta St.,
Quezon City
364-2029/365-2029 / 285-3011/305-1796
374-30-11 / 411-27-20

SUZUKI AUTO BACOLOD
Bacolod City
(034) 435-0268

SUZUKI AUTO SHAW
411 Shaw Boulevard,
Mandaluyong City
(02) 403-5248 / 403-0099

SUZUKI AUTO CAGAYAN DE ORO
Mindanao Motor Compound Corrales Ave.,
Cagayan de Oro City
(082) 227-20367

SUZUKI AUTO DAGUPAN
National Highway Ambonao,
Catainga, Pangasinan
(075) 517-17-17 / 6888 / 0990

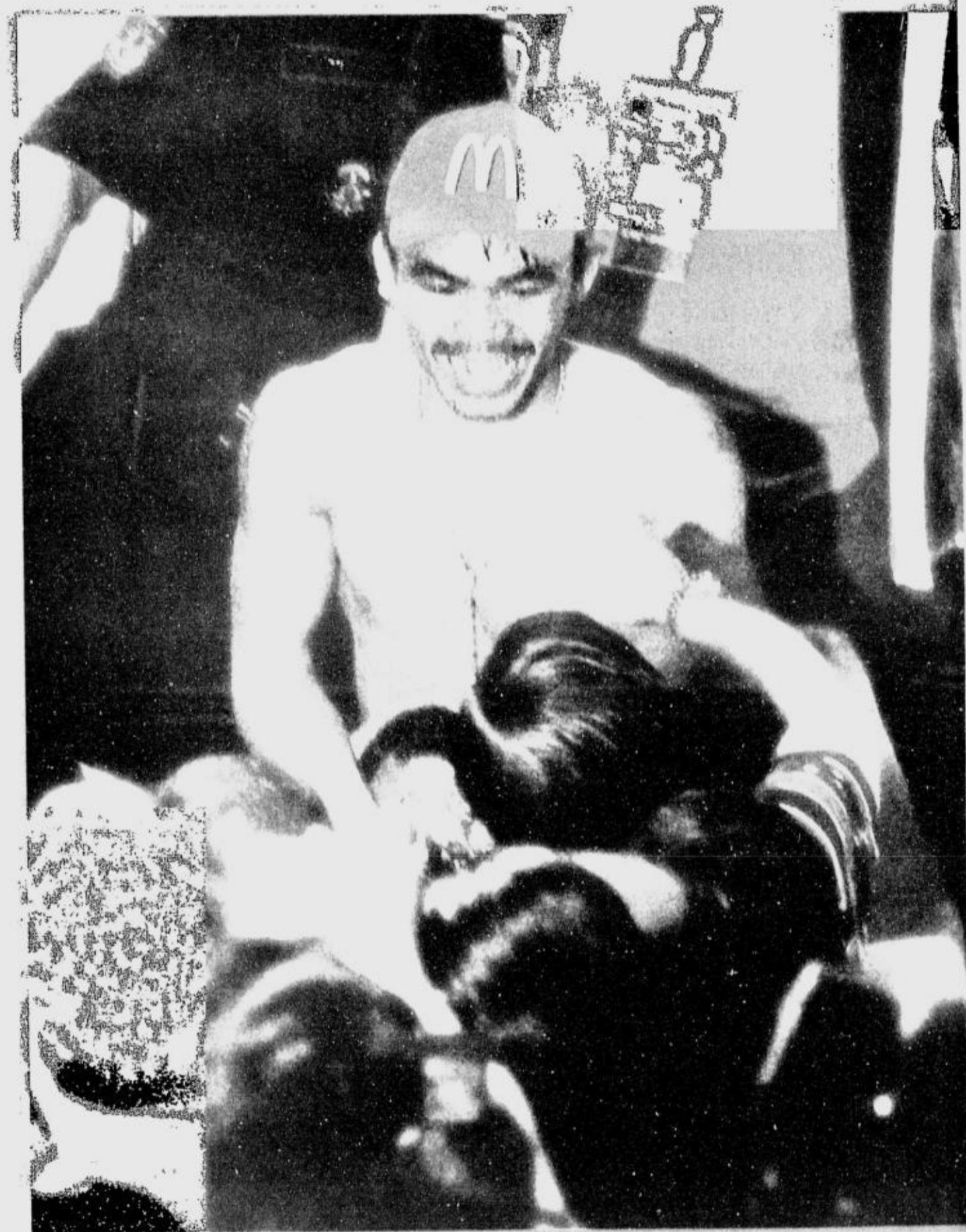
SUZUKI AUTO DAVAO
Bo. Pampanga, Bago,
Davao City
(062) 233-1140 / 234-0390

SUZUKI AUTO ILILO
Luna St., Lapaz, Iloilo City
(033) 320-7020 / 508-2777

SUZUKI AUTO ZAMBOANGA
Olongapo-Gapan Road
City of San Fernando,
Pampanga
(048) 660-5011 / (048) 981-3573

www.suzuki.com.ph

Pa-pa-ra-Pacquiao



Mabuhay ka, Manny! Love ka ng McDo. Love ka ng Pinoy.



EZ2 SUERTRES
30 20 9 5 9
 (All in exact order)

FOUR DIGIT 3 7 7 3

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: Inquirer attn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

MEGALOTTO 6/45

13 30 38 40 42 45

P5,276,707.20

Lafayette test run gets green light

RAPU-RAPU, ALBAY—THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources removed the final roadblock for the conduct of a test run of the mining system of Australian firm Lafayette Phils. Inc. here.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes presided over the presentation here Friday of the validation report on the conditions set prior to the 30-day test run to start next week.

Reyes, however, said the test run is no guarantee that the mining operation would resume.

He said the government is concerned over safety, health and

sanitation of communities near the mining site.

Reyes said the DENR, experts from the Chamber of Mines and people from the academe have been stationed at the mining site for the past weeks to monitor the implementation of the conditions set prior to the conduct of the test run.

Michael Cabalda, chief science

research specialist of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau central office, said he is personally vouching for the safety measures that were put in place.

The DENR required LPI to put the safety measures in place with transparency. Validating mechanisms must be instituted and environmental measures must be adhered to based on existing standards.

The DENR also called for an improvement of the existing mine site laboratory for heavy metal analysis, the setting up of an emergency preparedness and response program,

and the commissioning of a third party which will assess and start the process for ISO 14001 certification.

Reyes said he is now just awaiting the final recommendation of the Pollution and Adjudication Board to formally signal the start of the test run, which he said could be done even during the weekend if the company is willing to work.

Residents, the company's scholars, municipal and barangay officials and company employees and officials were jubilant after Reyes assured them of the conduct of the test run.

Lawyer Julio Sarmiento,

Lafayette's director and corporate secretary, said the company had infused no less than P400 million just for the environmental safety program.

"This demonstrates the company's good faith and intention in putting everything in order to ensure safe and responsible mining," he said.

Sarmiento added that aside from the huge amount invested in the safety measures, the company is also losing at least \$3 million in unrealized revenues every month during the past eight months that it has stopped operations. *Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Bishop, gov back test run of mines in Rapu-Rapu

SORSOGON CITY—TWO RANKING and influential leaders of the province had expressed support for the scheduled test run of the mining operation at the island of Rapu-Rapu in Albay province.

Gov. Raul Lee and Bishop Emeritus Jesus Varela both endorsed the test run saying it would determine whether or not the installed systems and other steps taken by the firm to make up for two spills last year would pass tests.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes was in the mining site yesterday to personally oversee the start of the 30-day test run.

It was the first time ever that Bishop Varela, the predecessor of antimining Bishop Arturo Bastes, came out in public with a statement about the mining issue in Rapu-Rapu.

Bastes was appointed head of a body that investigated the waste spills.

Varela said he sees no wrong in mining operations for as long as they comply with ethical concerns such as safety of the environment, community and those involved in the mining operation themselves.

Mining

He said mining is one important industry that must be given a chance to grow as it would greatly help in economic development.

Bishop Varela's stand was directly opposed to the stand of his successor, Bishop Bastes, who headed the Rapu-Rapu Fact-finding Commission which recommended the total closure of the mining operation on the island.

Bishop Bastes was in Manila for the regular assembly of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines and sent a text message to the INQUIRER saying that he was "dismayed" over the scheduled test-run of Lafayette.

Lee, meanwhile, said that a thorough test run must be conducted to "once and for all determine the viability of Lafayette's operation and to determine whether it's environmentally safe."

In a text message sent to the INQUIRER, Fr. Lino Bugaoisan, Rapu-Rapu parish priest and a staunch anti-Lafayette advocate, expressed apprehension that incidents similar to the spill last year could again occur anytime once the mining operation is allowed to resume.

Bugaoisan said Rapu-Rapu could be the next Marinduque, Diwalwal, or Guinsaugon which were all hit by environmental disasters.

The local government of Rapu-Rapu and the barangay councils around the mining area all supported the resumption of Lafayette's operation. *Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



ROUNDUP

Theft imperils safety at NLEX

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The numerous incidents of stealing of aluminum fences along the North Luzon Expressway have taken a toll on public safety. Seven people were hurt after their jeeps struck a stray carabao that crossed the NLEX Km 65 section here at 9:36 p.m. on Tuesday. A report from the traffic control room of the Tollways Management Corp. showed that the first vehicle, which was southbound, struck the carabao. The animal was thrown off to the highway's left lane. The second vehicle also hit the carabao. The vehicle rolled and exploded after its fuel tank leaked. The two jeeps carried 52 passengers. Seven passengers suffered bruises. Marlene Ochoa, vice president for community relations of the Manila North Tollways Corp., said at least 27 km of the expressway had been stripped of fences by thieves. Several of them have been arrested but these have not deterred the crime. The aluminum is melted and sold to junk shops. Road signs have also been stolen. Ochoa said. She said the MNTC and the TMC, the NLEX operators, have decided to replace the fences with concrete walls and patrol teams guard the areas that have no fences.

Tonette Orea, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Lack of phones at GSIS

LUCENA CITY—Government employees in Quezon have complained of the lack of telephones at the Government Service and Insurance System office in the outskirts of the city. "With the present high transportation fare, it's imperative for GSIS members to transact business or make simple queries as much as possible through the use of telephone. But with the GSIS here, we can't just let our fingers do the walking for us," Armand de la Cruz, a relative of a retired public schoolteacher, said. Even a member's simple clarification from any GSIS office staff member, which can be made by phone, has to be done personally—causing waste of time and money. Only one of seven GSIS telephone numbers, the one connected to the office of the local GSIS manager, is operational. When one dials the rest of the numbers, a taped message will readily answer: "The number you dialed is not yet in service," which means the number has been disconnected. Cita Abrenica, GSIS Lucena officer-in-charge, admitted that the GSIS had disconnected some of their phone lines as part of the austerity program of the government.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

do the walking for us," Armand de la Cruz, a relative of a retired public schoolteacher, said. Even a member's simple clarification from any GSIS office staff member, which can be made by phone, has to be done personally—causing waste of time and money. Only one of seven GSIS telephone numbers, the one connected to the office of the local GSIS manager, is operational. When one dials the rest of the numbers, a taped message will readily answer: "The number you dialed is not yet in service," which means the number has been disconnected. Cita Abrenica, GSIS Lucena officer-in-charge, admitted that the GSIS had disconnected some of their phone lines as part of the austerity program of the government.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

3 gov't troops hurt in clash

SORSOGON CITY—Three government troops were injured in an encounter Sunday with suspected New People's Army rebels in Barangay Bacolod, Irosin. Police

said P02 Romeo Diners, Sgt. Ricardo Openia and Sgt. Ramon Urbiz were

rushed to the Sorsogon Provincial Hospital. It was the first clash between govern-

ment troops and the NPA rebels since the rebels declared a ceasefire in the areas

affected by relief operations for villagers around the restive Bulusan Volcano less

than two weeks ago. Reports reaching the Provincial Police Office here said that

at about 7 p.m., joint elements of the Irosin Municipal Police Office and the Philip-

pine Army detachment in Barangay Gabao rushed to Barangay Bacolod to check

the reported presence of armed men. However, the government forces were met by heavy gunfire forcing them to retreat, the report added. *Bobby Labalan with report from Ephraim Aguilar, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Mine firm woos residents

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Even as opposition to its activities in the tri-boundaries of Davao del Sur, South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat has waned, Sagittarius Mines Inc.

continues to court the support of residents in its areas of operation. SMI, an Aus-

tralian-Filipino company, announced that it has expanded its education program with

additional 5,500 beneficiaries from Columbo, Sultan Kudarat and Tampakan, South

Cotabato this year. SMI will shoulder 75 percent of the school fees while local govern-

ment units will shoulder the difference. SMI over-all project coordinator Rolando Doria said they wanted the LGUs to provide a counterpart fund so that the program would

not be considered a dole-out. Doria said that last year, the company spent P7.3 million

for its education program. This year, he said, the amount increased to P9 million with

the initiation of the company's expanded education program. "The assistance extend-

ed by SMI is a big help to the new generation in achieving their dreams," said

Aquiles Zonia, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Dureza told the INQUIRER.

Dureza said he also met with mayors supportive of the offensive against the MILF and asked them to let the military handle the peacekeeping task.

"It's now quiet in the area," he said.

The clashes started when militiamen tried to serve warrants against two MILF leaders blamed for the June 23 roadside bomb attack that killed at least seven people in Shariff Aguak.

Police and the Ampatuans said the explosion was aimed at the Maguindanao governor, who has escaped several previous attempts on his life.

But an unidentified suspect lobbed a grenade inside a house owned by the governor here 8 a.m. yesterday.

Senior Insp. Samson Obatay, spokesperson of the city police, said the grenade failed to explode, though.

It was not clear if Ampatuans was in the house during the attack.

But Autonomous Region Gov. Zaldy Ampatuans, a son of the

Maguindanao governor, said the failed grenade attack was the latest attempt to kill his father.

Dureza said aside from ordering the withdrawal of the CVOs, the Maguindanao governor also agreed to let the ceasefire committee handle the serving of the warrants against MILF commanders Sajid Paklakad, Jamil Ombra and four other people linked to the June 23 explosion.

The US Embassy in Manila has asked for an end to hostilities.

"Any damage to home and community by fighting is tragic and it's important that the fighting be stopped as soon as possible. We support efforts by government and all concerned parties to end the hostilities," Matthew Lussenhop, US Embassy press attaché, told the INQUIRER by phone.

Lussenhop said it was important for the government and the MILF to return to the negotiating table.

Jeffrey Maitem and Charlie Seifase with a report from Eldie Aguirre, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Pamintuan also said Jadewell should not collect fees because "the power of taxation and police power should be exercised by the Baguio City government."

But Rogelio Tan, Jadewell president, managed to win a reprieve from the Supreme Court when it ordered the city government and the pay parking firm to maintain a status quo while it deliberated on the legality of Jadewell's contract.

Normal Tan, Jadewell operations manager, said Ermata's suspension order was based on the recommendation of the Department of Interior and Local Government, which heard Jadewell's complaint for nine months.

But she said DILG's recommendations were submitted to Ermata as early as Aug. 5, 2005.

Afable's decision to go public validated Jadewell's suspicions that Palace officials had been protecting Yaranon, she said.

City administrator Peter Fianza told the INQUIRER that Yaranon might go to court to seek an injunction should the Palace ignore his appeal.

shall support him in his quest for justice," Secretary Afable said in a statement.

"I praise [Yaranon] for his statesmanship in accepting the action of the Palace and in seeking lawful relief," he said.

Yaranon, a retired regional trial court judge, said he welcomed Afable's show of support. Yaranon won the mayoral post in 2004 by promising to stop the Jadewell contract, which he described as a violation of accepted road rules.

His first administrative order in office was to discourage motorists from paying street parking fees. He later ordered the police to stop Jadewell employees from collecting fees and from towing vehicles.

These two administrative orders became the basis for his suspension.

This year, Yaranon shut down Jadewell's operations based on a decision by a regional trial court. Judge Fernando Vil. Pamintuan ruled that motorists have the right "to travel and be allowed to park peacefully at the roads, streets and parks of Baguio City."

Afable's mother, community paper editor Cecile Afable, had been a staunch supporter of the 78-year-old mayor.

Mrs. Afable said she is leading an indignation rally on July 17 when Ms Arroyo is scheduled to visit the city, to dramatize their support for Yaranon.

"I have supported Mayor Yaranon in his crusade against dirty politics and governance, and I



AFABLE
Silvestre Afable Jr. resigned as the Cabinet Officer for Regional Development (Cord) in the Cordillera on the day Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita suspended Mayor Braulio Yaranon.

He retains his position as chief peace negotiator, however. Ermata said she is leading an indignation rally on July 17 when Ms Arroyo is scheduled to visit the city, to dramatize their support for Yaranon.

"I have supported Mayor Yaranon in his crusade against dirty politics and governance, and I

Buddy

Here's the most affordable
Colored Screen Cellphone from Nokia!

The Nokia 1600
for only
P 3,490

NOKIA 1600
Colored Screen:
Mp3 and Polyphonic
Ringtones
Talking Alarm Clock

Get your NOKIA handsets from any SMART Wireless Center now!

- All original battery and accessories
- 15-day replacement warranty
- 12-month service warranty

NOKIA
Connecting People

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111; *888
using your SMART cellphone; the SMART Corporate Hotline at #888; send a text message to
888 (Standard rate in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation applies); visit our website at
www.smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

DAHIL
SMART TAYO



BERSAMINA

plus
■ 8-year old chess champ makes it to Pasay's Hall of Fame /A20

■ American tourist detained for alleged rape /A20

■ Five arrested for trying to take over Alabang jeep terminal /A20

■ 4,000 motorists caught in Makati anti-smoke belchers' campaign /A20

Text us your feedback: Inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

WHAT'S INSIDE



Regents vote to retain PNU president

5 more officials resign from their administrative positions



PROTESTS continue against the naming of the new president of Philippine Normal University, Lutgardo Barbo. JOAN BONDOC

9-year-old boy admits he was leader of rob gang

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A NINE-YEAR OLD BOY WHO ADMITTED he was the mastermind in the stealing of motor vehicle spare parts worth at least P50,000 from a parked truck was arrested with seven other minors in Malabon City early yesterday morning.

Chief Insp. Teresita Soriano head of the Northern Police District Women's and Children's Desk said the boys, all of them not more than 15 years old, were accused of stealing at least P50,000 worth of accessories from a 10-wheel truck undergoing repair work parked along the street.

Leader

Soriano said the boys pointed to the youngest and smallest among them as their leader.

"The boy admitted planning the robbery," said Merceditas Caballero, a staff member of the city's social welfare department.

The stolen parts were recovered inside a videoke bar near the area where the truck was parked. Soriano said the boy had told her he sold the stolen parts so he could have his own money.

Accomplices

The boy also told the social worker that only three of the seven other minors were his accomplices.

Demonstrating how he stole the spare parts, the boy said he used his bare hands to drag the heavy spare parts and other materials he found inside the vehicle, and passed these on to his companions waiting behind the truck.

"The boy was close to tears when he was told that he would be turned over to his mother. Later, he agreed to be brought to a DSWD shelter," Soriano said.

Turnover

Under the law, all minor offenders must be turned over to the parents, but would be under the supervision of the DSWD.

The parents and the child involved must then immediately go for counseling provided also by the social welfare department.

In this case, however, Soriano said the boys would first be brought to a shelter.

Later, the DSWD will trace the parents' whereabouts to inform them about what had happened to their children.

By Tina G. Santos

THE BOARD OF REGENTS (BOR) OF THE Philippine Normal University yesterday reaffirmed its decision appointing lawyer Lutgardo Barbo as its new president.

The BOR's decision prompted five more officials to resign from their administrative posts, bringing the total to 30. Several students reportedly walked out of their classes after learning about the decision.

In its response to charges of faculty members and students that the procedures adopted by the search committee (SC) deviated from the generally accepted principles on statistics, the regents, led by chair Nenelyn Defensor, cited the letter of Assistant Solicitor General Renan Ramos, who said the SC was empowered to devise its own procedures.

"Atty. Barbo had already taken his oath as PNU president. His appointment is complete," Ramos said. "He, therefore, acquired a legal right which cannot be taken away either by revocation of the appointment or by removal except for cause and previous notice and hearing." Ramos added the appointing authority, in this case the BOR, had the power to choose.

The BOR maintained that the change of the phrasing of the minimum qualification clause from "must be" to "preferably" a holder of an

earned doctorate degree in education or any related field was made to attract or invite more applicants for the university's highest post. The regents added the phrasing had also been adopted by almost all state colleges and universities, including the University of the Philippines (UP), in their search for president.

The BOR mentioned some "excellent" university presidents who were not doctorate degree holders, like former UP president Edgar do Angara and PNU's lawyer Lilia Garcia.

But in a text message to the INQUIRER, Garcia said she had a master's in business administration from the UP. She added that she had been with the PNU for 36 years holding middle and top management positions.

The BOR said being a lawyer was equivalent to having a master's degree. It said it also considered the new official's managerial and administrative experience in the management of scarce resources and resource generation as provincial governor of Eastern Samar for three terms.

Barbo, the BOR added, chaired the provincial school board, working closely with teachers and supervisors in developing and evaluating programs, administering delivery systems, generating funds, and administering programs for teachers and staff development.

DOCKERS SAN FRANCISCO

AKO... IL SAU LIGHT

Rexona

DEKjor OTSENti

A back-to-the-80's shindig
Filled with New Wave songs
surprise guests &
All-night Dancing!

featuring JUAN MIGUEL ALVADORE w/ THE AUTHORITY BAND & DJ BOY O' ALMAGRO

Tickets Available at:
Myron's Power Plant Mall, All Cafe Breton Branches
Uno Restaurant, Tomo's Morato, QC. 3740774
LSGH Alumni Office 7212727 or contact mobile no. 09152915003

SATURDAY
8th of JULY
2006

7PM. Rockwell Tent
Power Plant Mall

This event will benefit Bahay Pag-asa :: Produced by La Salle Green Hills Batch '82

Fight over Alabang terminal heats up anew

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE FEUD BETWEEN THE Muntinlupa City government and a private company over the Alabang Jeepney Terminal flared up again with the arrest of five persons who attempted Wednesday a takeover of the terminal.

The police identified those arrested as Rodolfo Cabaciao, Celso Jaum, Serafin Obidos, Rolino Gonzales and Eliano Tedio, employees of the Joint Venture of Ayesel, the company managing the terminal before the local government took over in March.

In his report, city police chief Supt. Jose Mario Espino said the group allegedly arrived at the terminal at around 10 a.m. three days ago and "by means of force and coercion" tried to take over the terminal. The group was allegedly led by Ricky Sumallo, former general manager of the terminal, and Dante Almario, former city councilor. Ariel Dolleton, current terminal manager, said he had filed physical assault and grave coercion charges against those arrested and Almario.

Also charged were Sumallo, Bobby Questas, Dave Almario, Jeanette Legaspi, Randy Soriano and several Jane and John Does.

The group claimed the takeover was covered by a temporary restraining order issued by the Court of Appeals suspending the company's eviction from the 10,293-sq.m. terminal.

Charge Danny Lim? Why not FVR, Reyes too?

IF THE GOVERNMENT CHARGES Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, former Army Rangers chief, with sedition for attempting to withdraw his support for President Macapagal-Arroyo last February, why weren't Fidel V. Ramos and Angelo Reyes not charged with the same offense for withdrawing their support for their commanders in chief that led to Edsa I and Edsa II, respectively? What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

The government might as well forget about charging General Lim and his supporters because it might open old, ugly wounds.

If I were President Arroyo, I would keep former President Ramos close to me to deal with future coup plotters.

During Ramos' term there was not a single talk of a coup d'état or destabilization. Why? Because Ramos knew how to keep the military under control. I would have Ramos as a very close adviser.

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

er—an elder statesman, if you will—on military affairs and communist and Muslim insurgencies, if I were GMA.

I doff my hat to former Ambassador Roy Señeres for coming out to say he supported Gen. Lim's plan to rebel against the President. It takes a lot of courage to do that.

I've known Señeres since he was our labor attaché at the United Arab Emirates in the 1980s. He didn't care whether or not the host government looked at him with disfavor for coddling runaway Filipino maids maltreated by their Arab employers.



PAULO receives medal as overall champion in the 7th ASEAN Age Group Chess Championships held last month in Jakarta. Left: Paolo at his games.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

8-year old chess champ makes it to Pasay's Hall of Fame

By Jocelyn R. Uy

AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD CHESS prodigy is the youngest Pasay resident to make it to the city's Hall of Fame.

Paulo Bersamina, the overall champion in the 7th ASEAN Age Group Chess Championships held last month in Jakarta, Indonesia, has been included in the prestigious list, city public information officer, Manny Aun told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Bersamina, of Taylo Street,

Sta. Clara, won two gold medals in the chess tournament attended by children across Asia from June 10 to 20.

"We are very proud of Paulo. As a former Asian Games campaigner, it always warms my heart to see a young Pasayeno doing well in sports," Mayor Wenceslao "Pee-wee" Trinidad said during a ceremony held on Monday in honor of Bersamina. The young woodpusher will be joining the mayor, a former swimmer, multi-awarded Philippine Basketball Association

player Elmer Reyes, Olympic swimmer Jairullah Jaitullah, Olympic sprinter Benjamin Silva-Netto and former basketball star and television personality Freddie Webb, among others, in the Hall of Fame list.

Bersamina learned to play the game at the age of 4. The multi-awarded chess awardee, a third grader, is also a scholar at the University of the East, excelling in math and computer subjects.

METROBRIEFS

Deadly lovers' spat

A LOVERS' quarrel led to the death of a 28-year-old laborer, who was stabbed allegedly by his partner inside their house in Quezon City the other night. Police are hunting down Apple Grace Jacinto, 21, the primary suspect in the killing of Reynaldo Evangelista at 13 Artillery Road, Barangay Holy Spirit. Evangelista and Jacinto were overheard having a heated quarrel just before 10 p.m., according to a report by PO3 Allan Rodulfo of the Quezon City Police District criminal investigation division. At the height of the argument, Jacinto allegedly got hold of a knife and stabbed Evangelista. Neighbors rushed the victim to the Malvar General Hospital, but Evangelista, who sustained a stab wound in the right chest, died later, police said. Jacinto remains at large.

DJ Yap



Watch that smoke!

THE MAKATI CITY government is showing no let up in its campaign against smoke belchers. Nearly 4,000 motorists were apprehended for violating antismoke belching laws in the first six months this year, reported the Makati Pollution and Control Office (MPCO) yesterday. The main culprits were delivery vans, accounting for 1,694 apprehensions followed by trucks with 1,373; private cars, 320; jeepneys, 301; buses, 138 and taxis, 51. MPCO Chief Reggie Suarez said all apprehended vehicles would undergo a smoke meter test to determine the level of smoke emission based on standards set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Jocelyn R. Uy

American tourist detained for alleged rape

POLICE ARRESTED AN AMERICAN TOURIST ON ALLEGATION he and two men gang raped a 17-year-old girl for five days, officials said Friday.

Kenneth O. Saunders Jr., 25, a native of Washington in the United States, was arrested in his temporary residence in Pasig City on Thursday after the girl filed a complaint alleging she was detained and gang raped over five days this week inside his house, police officer Samuel Peralta said. "He told us the rape charge was fabricated because the girl's parents wanted him to marry their daughter," Superintendent Gilbert Cruz told reporters.

Peralta said the teenager alleged she was detained and raped from Sunday to Thursday, after she was invited by two men to Saunders' house. The girl said she was able to escape and report to police, according to Cruz. Saunders was detained at the police station. His two companions were at large.

AP

TODAY at 9:00am

Come & watch great harmony in motion at the

DUNKIN' DONUTS®
Pasalubong ng Bayan™

CHEER-DANCE COMPETITIONS

July 8 (Semi Finals) & 9 (Finals), 2006
at the Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym

Finalists

University of Santo Tomas • Sacred Heart Academy QC
St. Joseph's College QC • Elizabeth Seton School
Far Eastern University • School of St. Anthony

Admission is FREE!



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS. FAIRNESS. VIEWS

Jed Madela
"The Grand Champion Performer of the World"
www.wcpa.com

HOLLYWOOD CONCERT

At "Onstage", Greenbelt 1, Makati City
July 14 & 15, 2006 - 8:00 p.m.
Brought to you by:

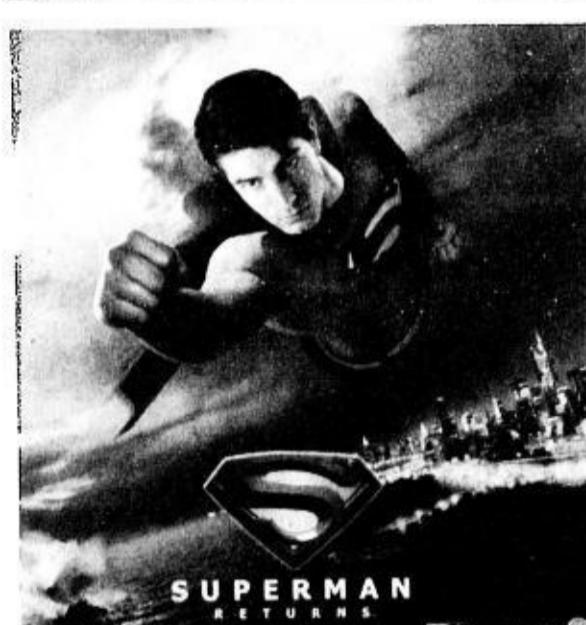
TICKET PRICES:
P1,200 / P1000 - P800 - P500

MOISSANITE CALAYAN

ABS-CBN INQUIRER

TICKETWORLD

**GLORIETTA 4 • GREENBELT 3
GLORIETTA 1 • GREENBELT 1
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET!
AYALA CENTER CBBU**



Watch SUPERMAN RETURNS.
at the All-Digital-Sound
Ayala Malls CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 4 • GREENBELT 3
GLORIETTA 1 • GREENBELT 1
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET!
AYALA CENTER CBBU

The All-Digital-Sound Ayala Malls Cinemas puts you into the center of the action in a way no ordinary theater can, drawing you in with sounds so intense you can almost feel them.

For screening schedule, pls. call 729-7777
MTRCB Rating: General Audience

PREPARE TO BE BLOWN OUT OF THE WATER

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST

Ayala Malls

THX CERTIFIED CINEMAS

glorieta **GREENBELT**

CLEARER SOUNDS, SHARPER PICTURES, BETTER MOVIES

Ayala Malls' THX Certified Cinemas offer movie-goers the ultimate cinematic experience.

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

JULY 12

The WORLD

Editor
Luverne B. Gueco

24 killed in Israel assault

GAZA CITY—TWENTY-THREE PALESTINIANS and an Israeli soldier have been killed in the past 24 hours as Israel widened its assault in Gaza, reoccupying land evacuated 10 months ago and carrying out a wave of deadly air raids.

After the bloodiest day since Israel launched its offensive, the UN Security Council debated a draft resolution demanding an immediate withdrawal of its forces from the Gaza Strip and the release of detained Palestinian officials.

But the United States, Israel's closest ally, described it as "unbalanced."

Early Friday, Israeli forces launched a new air raid on the town of Beit Lahiya, the main battleground in northern Gaza, killing an armed Palestinian militant and wounding three others, Palestinian security officials said.

In a major escalation of the conflict on Thursday, Israel sent its troops deep into the northern Gaza Strip, effectively creating a buffer zone in the territory it withdrew from in September last year.

Israel has vowed to use everything in its power to increase the pressure on the embattled Hamas-led government to free a soldier captured by Palestinian militants in an attack 12 days ago and to stop rocket attacks.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniya slammed the Gaza assault as "collective punishment" and demanded international intervention to stop Israel's biggest military operation since it pulled out of Gaza.

"It's a crime against humanity," said Haniya, who himself has been directly targeted by the Israeli offensive.

The Hamas government, which is boycotted both financially and politically by Israel and the West, put its security forces on high alert and urged all Palestinians to take up arms against the Israeli military.

One Israeli soldier was shot dead in fighting in Beit Lahiya, a killing claimed by one of the militant groups behind the June 25 abduction of 19-year-old Cpl. Gilad Shalit.

In the worst single incident, 11 Palestinians were killed, including two fighters loyal to Hamas, in an Israeli bombardment on Beit Lahiya, one of a series of deadly attacks throughout the

day, medics said.

Bloodstained bodies could be seen huddled together as the wounded frantically carried other victims caked in blood through the streets.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces launched an incursion into a refugee camp in the northern city of Jenin, killing a 16-year-old Palestinian and wounding several more people, including militants, medics said.

Experts from the 15-member Security Council met behind closed doors to discuss a draft, presented by Qatar on behalf of the UN's Arab Group, which calls on Israel, as the occupying power, to abide by its obligations under the Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in time of war.



A MAN carries the lifeless body of a Palestinian boy after an Israeli strike in the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Lahiya July 6.

AP

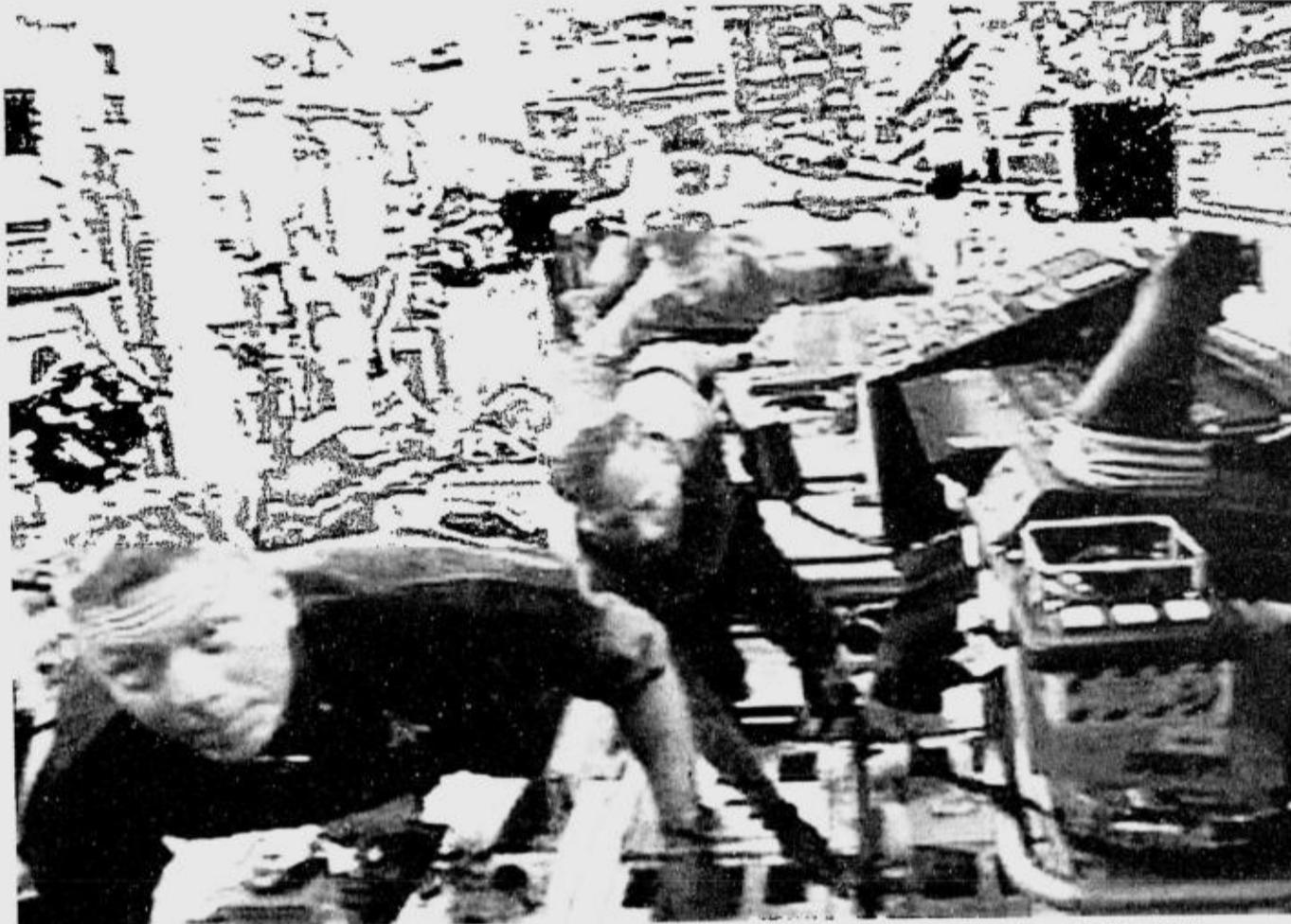


IMAGE from Nasa TV shows astronaut Mike Fossum leading the way as the crew floats into the International Space Station July 6.

Nasa confident Discovery trouble is over

HOUSTON—NASA ENGINEERS worked overnight on Friday to assess images of space shuttle Discovery's heat shield after two days of intensive inspections and growing optimism the problems leading to the fatal 2003 Columbia accident are over.

The shuttle reached the International Space Station on Thursday to bring the resident crew up to its full, three-member staff for the first time since the accident and to deliver more than 5,000

pounds (2,268 kg) of new equipment and supplies.

"Overall, we have a really clean vehicle," deputy space shuttle program manager John Shannon said during a briefing on Thursday evening. "We're really happy."

Preliminary results of the in-flight inspections, which were conducted by the shuttle astronauts using a sensor-studded boom and by the station crew, which photographed Discovery's heat-resistant belly tiles before

docking, showed no damage from debris impacts during the shuttle's ride to orbit on Tuesday.

On the last shuttle flight a year ago, the fuel tank used on Discovery shed large pieces of insulating foam, although none struck the spacecraft.

The flight before that ended with the breakup of shuttle Columbia and the deaths of seven astronauts on Feb. 1, 2003.

Columbia was hit by debris falling from the tank during

launch and broke apart as it attempted to fly through the atmosphere for landing.

Nasa has said any more serious problems with the shuttle likely would spell the end of the program and seriously affect plans for the half-built \$100 billion space station. The remaining modules, structural trusses and solar power arrays can only be carried and installed by the shuttles and must be done before the fleet is retired in 2010. Reuters

Ugalde confirmed Calderon as the winner at a news conference several hours after the final vote recount was made public. The IFE will not declare him president-elect, however; that is the responsibility of the Federal Electoral Tribunal. The tribunal has until Aug. 31 to resolve any challenges regarding the recount, and Sept. 6 to officially declare who is president-elect.

The next president begins a single, six-year term on Dec. 1.

Mexican stocks closed 2.7 percent higher and the peso re-

bounded Thursday on news of Calderon's lead in the vote count. The markets closed before the count was finished.

But many obstacles remain in Calderon's path. If his triumph is upheld by electoral courts, he will face a Congress dominated by opposition parties, as well as a divided nation that sends millions north to work in the United States illegally.

"The time has arrived for unity and agreements," a smiling, but somewhat restrained Calderon told dozens of exuberant supporters who gathered at his campaign headquarters Thursday evening and began shouting, "You did it! You did it!" to celebrate his apparent victory.

"I'm making it my personal duty to take on as my own the wishes and desires of the millions of citizens who voted for other candidates," he said.

Calderon also called on all parties to put aside politics as usual and work together as a team."

To scattered boos, he reached out to Lopez Obrador, saying, "I not only reiterate my respect but also share his desire for justice, and I reiterate my commitment to work tirelessly ... for great equality and opportunity that will allow millions of Mexicans to overcome poverty."

US President George W. Bush's decision to send National Guard troops to the border has increased tensions in Mexico, as has a US congressional proposal to extend walls along the two countries' frontier.

Calderon wants to rely on Mexico's many free-trade accords to create jobs. He has vowed to crack down on rising crime and says he'll try to smooth US relations without letting Washington dominate.

AP

US general, envoy apologize for Iraq rape-murders horror

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—THE US AMBASSADOR and the top American military commander here together issued an unusual apology on Thursday for the rape and murder of a young Iraqi woman and the killing of her family, saying that the crime, in which at least four soldiers are suspects, had injured the "Iraqi people as a whole."

The statement came just hours after Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki said at a news confer-

ence that he might ask the American military to scrap a rule that grants foreign soldiers here immunity from Iraqi prosecution.

"Our people cannot tolerate that every day there is an ugly crime such as that in Mahmudiya," he said, referring to the market town near which the four Iraqis, including a young girl, were killed on March 12.

The incident first became pub-

lic last week, when the 4th In-

fantry Division announced it was investigating the involvement of American soldiers in the rape and slayings.

The strongly worded apology issued Thursday night by the top American commander in Iraq, Gen. George W. Casey Jr., and Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad revealed the deep concern among American officials over the criminal episode's potential to damage the entire American project in Iraq.

NYT

fantry Division announced it was investigating the involvement of American soldiers in the rape and slayings.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

US Ambassador John Bolton insisted that the council would eventually pass a binding resolution condemning the missile launches.

AFP

stripped of punitive measures, diplomats said.

"Our position remains unchanged," Chinese UN delegate Li Junhua told AFP after the two-hour meeting. "We need some flexible signals from our Japanese colleagues."

**TOYOTA GREAT
HOLIDAY
SALE**

Buy a Toyota now and get a chance

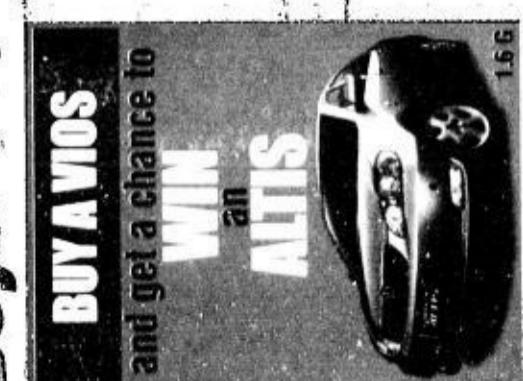
BUY A VIOS
and get a chance to

BUY AN ALTIS

BUY AN INNOVA

BUY A FORTUNER
and get a chance to

• a bag not 1 but 2 great cars!



GREAT TOYOTA VALUE CERTIFICATES! ENJOY AS LOW AS 10% DOWN PAYMENT AND UP TO 72-MONTH TERMS!

*10% Downpayment
Vios 1.3 J M
Altis 1.6 J M
Innova 2.0 J
Fortuner 2.7

	**50% D
Vios 1.3 J M/T	Vios 1
Altis 1.6 J M/T	Altis 1.
Innova 2.0 J M/T	Innova
Fortuner 2.7 G AT	Fortune

TVCs can be used for Toyota Genuine Accessories, Chattel Mortgage, LTO Registration, TFS Financial Package or Discount.

Raffle Draw: August 11, 2006
Deadline for entries: July 31, 2006
See posters & flyers for details.
Primo concurso: July 12-31, 2006

TOYOTA moving forward



WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Little Debbie
makes grade for
US Amateur /A25

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Text us your feedback: Inquirer.sprt.name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

■ It's Amelie
versus Justine
/A26



Giants grab 2-0 lead as Pingris, Yee shine

GAME TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
6:10 p.m.—Red Bull vs Purefoods (Game 3 of Finals)

By June Navarro

RED BULL CAME IN PREPARED for James Yap and Kerby Raymundo. Marc Pingris and Richard Yee, though, caught the Bulls flat-footed.

Overlooked, Pingris and Yee transformed into a formidable scoring tandem and carried Purefoods to a resounding 93-82 win over Red Bull for a commanding 2-0 lead in the PBA Philippine

Cup Finals last night at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Yee put up another sterling performance by banging all of his 17 points in the second half while Pingris pumped in a career-high 21 points, most of them in the shaded area to help the Giants pull away.

"Richard (Yee) saved us in Game 1. Tonight, he made a lot of key baskets underneath that proved to be decisive," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio, who moved two games closer to his first All-Filipino crown.

In franchise history, Purefoods has always won a best-of-seven series when it has a 2-0 lead, which happened thrice in the past.

"We don't want to dwell in the past," said Gregorio. "Again, it's a nice win but it takes four vic-

tories to win the championship."

Raymundo was limited to 12 points, a far cry from his 30-point explosion in Game 1. But when winning time came, the MVP contender joined forces with Yap to fend off Red Bull's ferocious chase in the end.

"It's nice to see Kerby, James and Marc play good music together," said Gregorio.

The scores:

PUREFOODS 93—Yap J. 23, Pingris 21, Yee 17, Raymundo 12, Castillo 12, Limpot 8, Artadi 0, Simon 0, Gamboa 0, Yap R. 0, Evangelista 0.

RED BULL 82—Tugade 18, Villanueva 13, Baguio 11, Najorda 8, Pennisi 7, Fonacier 6, Bugla 6, Robinson 6, Cruz 5, Hrabak 2, Valenzuela 0.

Quarters: 24-13, 39-48, 67-62, 93-82.



MARC Pingris (front) of Purefoods tries to regain possession against Red Bull's Larry Fonacier in their game yesterday.

ERIK ARAZAS



Celebrities will zoom through regular, rally and slalom tracks this July 15 and 16 at the SM Mall of Asia in this exhilarating event brought to you by Ford Focus in cooperation with Shell Super Unleaded E10. Shortly after, you'll also have a chance to get behind the wheel and experience the rush of World Rally Championship fever yourself at the public test drives.

www.ford.com.ph



Ford Alabang, Trunk Line: 842-3681 / 842-4628, Fax No. 807-4430 • Ford Balintawak, Trunk Line: 927-9440, Fax No. 927-5981 • Ford Commonwealth, Tel. Nos. 952-9118, 952-9441, 952-9446 Fax No. 952-9440 • Ford EDSA Greenhills, Tel. No. 744-2222, Fax No. 723-6311 • Ford EDSA Service Center Tel. No.: 723-7019 • Ford Libis, Trunk Line: 637-2044, Fax No. 637-6008 • Ford Global City, Trunkline: 840-8388, Fax No. 818-5000 • Ford Manila, Tel. No. 562-5555 Fax No. 562-8985 • Ford Queen Avenue, Tel. No. 731-2617 / 742-3415 / 742-3406 Fax. 741-3451 • Ford Shaw Blvd., Trunk Line: 717-0888, Telefax: 717-1300 • Ford Pamplona, Trunk Line: (045) 961-2888, Fax No.: (045) 963-5205 / 963-2277 • Ford Cabanatuan, Tel. No. (044) 484-0111, Fax No. (044) 480-1200 • Ford Dasmarinas, Tel. No. (075) 522-2222, Telefax: (075) 515-5520 • Ford San Pablo, Tel. No.: (049) 562-8324 • Ford Cavite, Tel. No. (046) 472-2048, Fax: (046) 472-2048 • Ford Cebu, Trunk Line: (032) 231-1180, Fax No.: (032) 231-1023 • Ford Bacolod, Tel. No. (034) 432-2151, Telefax: (034) 434-2877 • Ford Iligan, Tel. No. (033) 321-3352, Telefax: (033) 321-3351 • Ford Cagayan de Oro, Tel. No.: (083) 855-8811, Telefax: (083) 855-8817 • Ford Davao, Tel. No.: (082) 234-2222 • Ford Credit, Tel. No. 635-1251

DSL
Hi-Velocity Broadband Internet

Ticket prices slashed and smashed!

Araneta Coliseum • July 14 - 16, 2006 • 4PM

Watch badminton's superstars LIVE with these fantastic deals*:

- MVP Cup Singles Pass P300 per ticket
- MVP Cup Doubles Pass P500 for 2 tickets (same day)
- MVP Cup Smash Pass P750 for 3 tickets (one ticket for each day)

*For Upper Level A tickets previously at P500

Other ticket prices at P1,000 & P750. Tickets are available at all TicketNet outlets located at the SM Department Store Customer Service areas and at the Araneta Coliseum ticket booth. For inquiries and reservations, please call 911-5555.

Know the score! Check out myPad for updates on MVP Cup 2 action.

Visit: www.mypad.net/mvpcup2006

Produced by UMG

Promo duration: July 4-16, 2006 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2110, Series of 2006.

MVP CUP
ASIA vs EUROPE 2

Witness badminton at its best

DAHLI
SMART
TAYO

UAAP INAUGURAL

Favored Warriors open bid vs Falcons

By Jasmine W. Payo

IN 2004, UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST mentor Dindo Pumaren said his young charges were still a couple of years away from being a title contender.

Such a bold prediction from a rookie coach, but Pumaren knew exactly what he was talking about.

True enough, the Warriors set out as favorites when the 69th UAAP basketball season fires off today at the Araneta Coliseum.

"From the start, our coaching staff thought that it would take three years for the team to be really competitive," said Pumaren. "We're happy that our program is on track."

Favored for their solid lineup, the UE Warriors will kick off their campaign versus the Adamson Falcons at 2 p.m.

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
1 p.m.—Opening Ceremonies
2 p.m.—Univ. of the East vs Adamson
4 p.m.—National Univ. vs Ateneo

"We all know that this is UE's season, they're the barometer of the tournament," said new Adamson coach Leo Austria. "But I still think that an upset is possible. Most of our players have also matured."

The Ateneo Blue Eagles, still among the top picks after finishing third last season, will open their bid against the National University Bulldogs at 4 p.m.

"All the teams have been affected by graduating players," said Ateneo coach Norman Black, who lost star point guard LA Tenorio. "But whenever players graduate, you expect others to step up and take

over. I think we have enough in our backcourt to be successful this year."

Opening ceremonies start at 1 p.m., with host UE parading its former cage heroes led by Robert Jaworski, Allan Caidic, Jerry Codilera and James Yap, along with past coaches Baby Dalupan, Pilo Pumaren, Roehl Nadurata and Jimmy Mariano.

UE's star-studded supporters may seem like added pressure, but Pumaren remains confident with Bonbon Custodio, Mark Borboran and Marcy Arellano at the forefront of the Warriors' bid.

"The players have learned to deal with high expectations," said Pumaren. "We had a good practice (yesterday) so hopefully, the team will sustain its aggressiveness and confidence. But Adamson is still solid, they have 10 returning players."

Even with Tenorio gone, Black said Ateneo's backcourt remains competitive with Macky Escalona, Chris Tiu and Jai Reyes. The Eagles, though, will depend on the leadership of fifth-year forward JC Intal.

The Falcons, who finished seventh with a dismal 3-11 record last season, will be turning to veteran center Ken Bono and shooter Patrick Cabahug.

"It's a challenge for us to face UE in our first game, but I've also seen the hunger of our players," said Austria.

Although coming off another disheartening season, the Bulldogs will still rely on forward Edwin Asoro, last year's leading scorer with 15.3 points and fourth-best rebounder at 8.7 boards per game.

Only seven teams will compete this season as La Salle serves its one-year suspension for fielding two ineligible basketball players in the last three years.



ST. BENILDE'S Angelo Aldover makes a reverse shot against San Sebastian's Jason Ballesteros during their game yesterday. ERIK ARAZAS

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	3	0
PCU	3	1
San Beda	3	1
S. Sebastian	2	3
Perpetual	1	2
Mapua	1	2
St. Benilde	1	3
Jose Rizal	0	2

GAMES MONDAY	(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
12 nn—Jose Rizal U	vs PCU (Jrs/Srs)
4 p.m.—Perpetual	vs Mapua (Srs)

SECOND GAME (srs)

SSC 69—Viray 23, Vicente 21, Aquino 17, Bulawan 8, Lundaya 4, Raymundo 4, Najorda 4, Juan 3, Delgado 3, Sagad 2, Quiarao 0, De Leon 0, Ballesteros 0, Tioseco 0.

CSB 85—Urra Jr. 21, Layug 18, Johnston 16, Sevilla 12, Robles 7, Aldover 5, Manding 4, Cadiz 2, Urra III 0, Manlapaz 0, Trillo 0, Devaras 0, David 0, Umias 0, Libunao 0.

Quarters: 10-14, 28-35, 50-58, 76-76, 89-85 OT

THIRD GAME (srs)

SBC 69—Angeles 15, Ekwe 11, Escobal 9, Menor 9, Magay 8, Gamella 8, Aljamil 5, Tecson 4, Hermida 0, Taganas 0.

MAPUA 55—Dela Perla 15, Co 11, Del Rosario 10, Gonzales 8, Pascual 6, Mazo 3, Tiogoo 2, Sumaliling 0, Pascual 0.

Quarters: 20-17, 33-30, 56-40, 69-55

St. Benilde in the other seniors game.

The 6-foot-4 Viray had 23 points, eight rebounds and two blocks to seal the Stags' second win in five games and help snap his team's two-game slide.

In the first game, the Staglets tripped the CSB-LSGH Greenies, 78-70, to post their fourth victory as many games. The Greenies are now 2-2.

The senior scores:

SSC 69—Viray 23, Vicente 21, Aquino 17, Bulawan 8, Lundaya 4, Raymundo 4, Najorda 4, Juan 3, Delgado 3, Sagad 2, Quiarao 0, De Leon 0, Ballesteros 0, Tioseco 0.

CSB 85—Urra Jr. 21, Layug 18, Johnston 16, Sevilla 12, Robles 7, Aldover 5, Manding 4, Cadiz 2, Urra III 0, Manlapaz 0, Trillo 0, Devaras 0, David 0, Umias 0, Libunao 0.

Quarters: 10-14, 28-35, 50-58, 76-76, 89-85 OT

THIRD GAME (srs)

SBC 69—Angeles 15, Ekwe 11, Escobal 9, Menor 9, Magay 8, Gamella 8, Aljamil 5, Tecson 4, Hermida 0, Taganas 0.

MAPUA 55—Dela Perla 15, Co 11, Del Rosario 10, Gonzales 8, Pascual 6, Mazo 3, Tiogoo 2, Sumaliling 0, Pascual 0.

Quarters: 20-17, 33-30, 56-40, 69-55

Spring-Parañaque, Ozamiz cagers take semis openers

TAGAYTAY CITY—FAVORED SPRING COOKING Oil-Parañaque and Ozamiz Cotta lived up to expectation by beating their respective rivals Thursday at the start of the best-of-three crossover semifinals in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship here.

PBL veteran Marvin Ortigueria struck hard late in the payoff quarter to propel the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana past Mayor Sammy Co's expansion team Pagadian, 82-75.

Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Ozamiz cagers crushed Mayor Bambol Tolentino's Batang Tagaytay squad, 94-84, in the other match.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers need to win anew to arrange a title showdown in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic.

Games 2—and 3, if necessary—will be played in Ozamiz and Pagadian on July 11-12 and July 14-15, respectively.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Cotta Shrine cagers



DE VILLA: Seventh placer in a field of 80.

Little Debbie makes grade for US Amateur

By Jong Arcano

LOS ANGELES—DEBBIE DE VILLA HAS put a Filipino name on the roster of this year's United States Women's Amateur Championship.

The diminutive 15-year-old survived the demanding conditions of the Friendly Hills Country Club in Whittier, California, with a four-over-par 75 Thursday (Friday in Manila) to join nine other players who secured slots for next month's tournament proper.

The 106th edition of the US Women's Amateur, one of the 18 high-profile events handled by the USGA, tees off on Aug. 7 at the Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club in Oregon.

Wrestling with a balky putter all day, De Villa tied for seventh place in the 80-strong field that vied for berths in the 18-hole qualifier ruled by Korean lass Hur.

She humbled the course with a 69.

Lee Seo-jae, another Korean who lost to De Villa in the RP Ladies Open early this year at Manila Golf, shot a 71 for second place.

But none of De Villa's six teammates in the ICTSI training pool sent here by business tycoon Ricky Razon for a series of stints under the supervision of noted swing guru Bong Lopez made it.

Cyna Rodriguez and Anya Tanpinco carded 78s, Lora Roberto tallied a 79, Mia

Piccio made an 84, Bambi dela Paz checked in with an 85 and Crystal Superal wound up with an 88 at the up-and-down course in the San Gabriel mountains.

"Deb really handled the course very well despite some putting miscues," said Lopez. "Contrary to the name of the course, the conditions were not friendly at all, but Deb came prepared and got the job done."

Back-to-back birdies on the third and fourth holes gave De Villa the needed cushion for the putting miscues that came along the way. She three-putted the seventh, 14th and 18th en route to nines of 36-39.

Jung golfer Miko Yee carried the bag for De Villa and their partnership proved perfect.

Pacman backs Suico's WBA title challenge

WHEN IT COMES TO LENDING support to his fellow fighters, pound-for-pound icon Manny Pacquiao is tops.

The Filipino superstar leaves for the United States on July 12 to lead the cheering team for Filipino Randy Suico, who will challenge undefeated Juan Diaz for the World Boxing Association lightweight title.

The dynamite-fisted Suico (24-2, 21 KOs) he battles Diaz (29-0, 14 KOs) in 12-round showdown at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. The fight, which will be aired live by Solar Sports on July 16, is the chief support to the Shane Mosley-Fernando Vargas rematch.

The Mandaue City government yesterday announced that a cash incentive awaits Suico should he take the title. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

Piencenaves, Flores rally to seal final showdown

IAN PIENCENAVES AND CHRISTOPHER Flores rallied to beat their respective rivals and arrange a showdown for the men's singles crown while Irene Chiu and Alma Ledesma handily won their semifinal matches in the ladies side of the P1 million JVC Open Badminton Championships at Glorietta yesterday.

Piencenaves, the 2003 champion from Butuan Badminton Club, completed a stirring 22-24, 21-13, 21-16 victory over top-seeded Lloyd Escos while Flores, an FEU mainstay, also battled back from a set down to beat Melvin Llanes, 18-21, 26-24, 21-14, in the centerpiece elite masters division of the event sponsored by JVC (Phils), Inc.

The top-seeded Chiu, playing out of RTC Badminton, prevailed over Karyn Velez of Golden Shuttle Foundation in straight sets, 21-17, 21-15, while the second-ranked Ledesma, also of GSR pulled off a 21-4, 13-21, 21-16 victory over UP's Jertie Kagalingan.

They dispute the title and the top purse of P35,000 today along with the finals in the elite, veterans-masters and veterans-non pro divisions starting at 11 a.m.

The juniors, which stakes P12,000 to each champion in various categories, and corporate finals start at 10 a.m. with the celebrity and CEO invitational tournaments set at 3 p.m.

The Philippine Star and Meralco will dispute the top P50,000 purse in the corporate category. The defending champion Star nipped AB Leisure, 4-3, while Meralco bested Robinsons Land Corp. 6-1, in the semis late Thursday.

Earlier, Velez disposed of Reyna Calimlim of Victor, 21-17, 21-8, to reach the finals of the 16-under class against Centro Atletico's Gelita Castillo, who beat GSF's Bianca Legaspi, 21-17, 21-16.

Ronnel Estanislao of Chaopai beat James Rizon of Cebu, 21-14, 21-14, to arrange a title showdown with Ralph Hidalgo for the boys' crown. Hidalgo, also of GSF, thwarted Patrique Magnaye, 21-19, 23-21.

Assumption College's Francesca Bermejo and Rina Batuigas of Iloilo clash for the ladies crown in the elite division while Antonino Gadi of Ateneo and Andrei Babad of Battledore collide for the men's singles title.

Stockinger seeks 3rd straight win

MARLON STOCKINGER OF BIREL-SPIC hopes to make it three-in-a row in the premiere Formula 125 division as the 2006 Shell Superkarting Series stages its fifth leg tomorrow at the Boomland Kart Track at the Cultural Center of the Philippine Complex.

A win would firm up Stockinger's tag as one of the top title favorites in this series sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines.

The 16-year-old Stockinger posted his first win in the third leg at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in May and bagged his second straight triumph in the Asian Karting Open Championship last month.

Ace karter Matteo Guidicelli of Alessandra Racing, who's still completing his acting and directing workshop at the Universal Studios in Los Angeles, is yet to confirm his participation. If ever, Guidicelli's absence will be a big break for Stockinger to grab the overall leadership.

Guidicelli leads the title race with 213 points while Stockinger follows with 174. Two other Birel drivers - Indy Villalon and Daniel Cleak - are third and fourth with 128 and 126 points, respectively. In the Rotax Max Seniors, Guidicelli also leads with 208 while Stockinger is close behind with 177. Villalon is third with 127 while Cleak and Eslao are fourth and fifth with 121 and 78 points.

Also favored in the race are lawyer Jess Garcia, Tiny Go and Ecuadorian expatriate Santiago Garcia. Garcia, who ruled the kickoff leg, hopes to bounce back against Cebu Racing Group teammates Manger Calderon and Jan Jan Gonzales to fortify his hold of the ROK Seniors class lead.

Watch the

HOPE & Winston

SPORTS RIDE

GRAND DRAW

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

ARA
MINA

HANS
MONTENEGRO

REGINE
VELASQUEZ

WITH PERFORMANCES BY

SILK BAND

PASSI SENIORS

ALPINE BABIES

FEATURING

SEX BOMB DANCERS

LIVE! ON ABC

PBA

Finals Game 4

July 12, 2006 / 7PM

at the ARANETA COLISEUM



Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 9432 series of 2006.

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Wimbledon on STAR Sports
Women's final—Amelie Mauresmo vs Justine Henin-Hardenne
(live, 8:30 p.m. today)
Men's final will be aired tomorrow live at 8 p.m.

SPORTS

WIMBLEDON WOMEN'S FINALE

It's Amelie vs Justine

Nadal reaches semis, faces Baghdati next

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—JUSTINE HENIN-Hardenne is one victory from a career Grand Slam, and Maria Sharapova is gone from Wimbledon.

Henin-Hardenne defeated Kim Clijsters, 6-4, 7-6 (4), Thursday to reach the final and close on the one major title missing from her collection.

The third-seeded Henin-Hardenne will face No. 1 Amelie Mauresmo, who squandered a 3-1, love-40 lead against serve in the second set before putting away Sharapova, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

Saturday's championship will be a rematch of this year's Australian Open final in which Henin-Hardenne quit because of stomach pain while trailing, 6-1, 2-0, handing the Frenchwoman her first Grand Slam title.

French Open champion Rafael Nadal advanced to the men's semifinals by beating Fin-

land's Jarkko Nieminen, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. Their quarterfinal was postponed Wednesday after Jonas Bjorkman's five-set victory over Radek Stepanek took 6½ hours, including two rain delays totaling 2½ hours.

Mauresmo, who had lost in the semifinals in her last three stints at Wimbledon, looked like she might throw away her breakthrough chance against the 19-year-old Russian.

After dominating the first set with a performance that included just one unforced error (a double fault), Mauresmo held three break points with a chance to go up 4-1 in the second. She has a reputation for getting tight and, sure enough, she faltered. The fourth-seed Sharapova reeled off five straight games to take the set.

But it was Mauresmo who came out stronger in the final set, racing out to a 4-0 lead. Sharapova won the next two games and had a break point for 4-3, but Mauresmo saved it with a 112 mph (180 kph) ace. She broke in the next game to end the 2-hour, 13-minute match.

Mauresmo has lost five of her nine career matches against Henin-Hardenne.

"I'm expecting a tough one," she said. Henin-Hardenne reached the Wimbledon final



AMELIE Mauresmo celebrates winning a point against Maria Sharapova.

REUTERS

in 2001, losing to Venus Williams. Since then, she has won three French Opens and one US Open and Australian Open.

Nadal will face Marcos Baghdati, who upset 2002 champion Lleyton Hewitt, 6-1, 5-7, 7-6 (5), 6-2, on Wednesday.

AP

World Cup final: Everything could boil down to fatigue

HAMELN, GERMANY—THE DEBATE is which will matter more—a day or 30 minutes.

As France and Italy prepare for Sunday's World Cup final, much discussion has been given to who will be fittest at kickoff. France will have one day less to recover and prepare following its 1-0 semifinal victory over Portugal, but Italy, which beat Germany 2-0 on Tuesday, had to play 30 minutes of extra time.

"We will know only at the end of the match," said coach Raymond Domenech, still looking tired Thursday after returning from Munich in the south to Les Bleus' training camp in northern Germany.

Italy was happy to say both disadvan-

tages would cancel each other.

"We played extra time so we are even. There is no advantage," Italian team manager Luigi Riva said.

Within four weeks, the two teams will have played seven matches and both teams needed to field their best lineups in the final first-round game to advance, leaving little opportunity to rest players.

Fatigue showed on Wednesday, when France found it increasingly difficult to contain the attacking Portuguese.

"They forced us into a great deal of effort. It is true that we were wasted," Domenech said. "Now, we have three days of recovery."

France is a special case, since almost half its team can be considered veterans

with limited ability to recover.

Up to now though, the players such as defender Lilian Thuram and Zinedine Zidane, both 34, have not succumbed to fatigue or injury.

"I don't consider them old. At 30, 35, you can still run and prepare. It is the inner belief which makes the difference," he said.

Even more important than tired legs, will be tired minds. The players have been living together for about seven weeks.

"The mental aspects will make the difference," Domenech said.

The prize on Sunday however will also help the work rate.

"Somehow, the final will give everybody wings," Domenech said.

AP



Yellow jersey puts a little pressure on Tour leader

CAEN, FRANCE—HERE'S A TOUR DE FRANCE riddle: After so many years of riding in Lance Armstrong's wake, how will his heir—whoever it may be—cope with the pressure of wearing the race leader's yellow jersey as the finish in Paris nears?

It's a question some favorites are already asking themselves.

"I've imagined it enough. I think it'll be normal. I'll be all right," American Floyd Landis said after safely completing Thursday's stage five, which was won by three-time former world champion Oscar Freire in a sprint finish.

Race leader Tom Boonen, who placed second, is learning all about the added weight that comes with trying to hang onto the prized jersey that seven-time champion Armstrong made his own from 1999-2005.

"It's been causing a lot of strain," said the

world champion, whose lead over Australian Michael Rogers grew Thursday to 13 seconds. Freire vaulted from 20th to third overall, bumping George Hincapie of the United States down to fourth, both 17 seconds behind Boonen.

"It's more heavy for me because I'm not supposed to wear it," the Belgian said of the yellow shirt that he first took on Tuesday and will wear for a third day straight on Friday's stage six, which marks the end of the first week.

Landis, who already has three stage-race wins under his belt this year, is the kind of rider that could be wearing yellow when the Tour heads out of the Alps back toward the finish in Paris on July 23.

The Pennsylvanian is a solid time-trialer and mountain climber and learned from the best. He and Armstrong were teammates before Landis switched to the Swiss outfit Phonak.

AP

Mickelson takes Western lead

LEMONT, ILLINOIS—PHIL MICKELSON, bouncing back in his first event since a final-round meltdown cost him a US Open title, eagled his final hole here Thursday to move one stroke off the US PGA Western Open lead. The US veteran's four-under par 67 left him one stroke behind co-leaders Daniel Chopra of Sweden, David McNamee of Australia and Americans Joe Ogilvie and Lucas Glover at the five-million-dollar tournament. Mickelson sought

his third consecutive major crown last month at Winged Foot but a double-bogey on the 18th hole left the left-hander a loser. Returning here at Cog Hill with a 10th-tee start, Mickelson began with a pair of bogeys but birdied the 13th and 15th to make the turn at par. World No. 1 Tiger Woods, a three-time Western Open champion, stumbled to a one-over 72 to share 82nd place. He managed only 13 greens in regulation and just nine of 14 fairways.

AP

WHAT'S ON OFFER

- US\$ 1,300,000 + of exclusive scholarships plus funding advice
- GMAT and Admissions Strategy Workshop
- Specialist MBA bookstore

- Free TopMBA Career Guide for first 100 visitors
- MBA Scorecard: Create your personal b-school ranking - exclusive access to Scorecard for all visitors

Some of the participating business schools in Manila include:

Brisbane Grad.Sch.Bus. • Cheung Kong GSB • Columbia Bus.Sch. • Cornell-Nanyang Institute Hawaii Pacific Univ. • HEC MBA • Hult Int. Bus. Sch. • IE - Instituto de Empresa • IIPM India Manchester Bus.Sch. • MIP-Politecnico di Milano • Ohio State Univ. • Fisher • Univ. Michigan Global MBA • Universitas 21 Global

REGISTER AT
NOW

www.topmba.com FREE ENTRY

TELL A FRIEND and receive the TopMBA.com International MBA Recruitment and Salary Report

TMQ.net

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

JobStreet.com

BRITISH COUNCIL

movietime
SM DIAL-A-MOVIE 833-0000*

big movies • big stars • big shows • big events

sm cinema

**movietime
PRIMOS**

movietime

**SUPERMAN
RETURNS**
NOW SHOWING

SM MALL OF ASIA SAN MIGUEL IMAX THEATRE	SM METROMANILA SM MEGACINEMA	SM CITY STA. MESA
SUPERMAN RETURNS 9:00 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00 12:00MN	SUPERMAN RETURNS SCARY MOVIE 4 LOVEWRECKED SUPERMAN RETURNS UNITED 93 FAST AND FURIOUS LAKE HOUSE THE NUN KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSH SUPERMAN RETURNS PACQUIAO THE MOVIE XMEN III	SUPERMAN RETURNS LOVWLRLCKED SUPERMAN RETURNS X-MEN III FAST AND FURIOUS SCARY MOVIE 4 LAKE HOUSE PACQUIAO: THE MOVIE THE NUN AMERICAN HAUNTING AND PUSH
PREMIERE CINEMA MYMP: FALL IN LOVE DIRECTOR'S CLUB SUPERMAN RETURNS CENTERSTAGE RESERVED SUPERMAN RETURNS SCARY MOVIE 4 UNITED 93 LOVEWRECKED LAKE HOUSE FAST AND FURIOUS	SUPERMAN RETURNS LOVWLRLCKED SUPERMAN RETURNS UNITED 93 FAST AND FURIOUS THE NUN SCARY MOVIE 4 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSH	SUPERMAN RETURNS LOVWLRLCKED SUPERMAN RETURNS PACQUIAO THE MOVIE AMERICAN HAUNTING FAST AND FURIOUS SCARY MOVIE 4 LAKE HOUSE KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSH
PODIUM KINOLAND	SM CITY SOUTHMALL	SM CITY MANILA
CINEMA 1 SUPERMAN RETURNS CINEMA 2 LOVWLRLCKED	SUPERMAN RETURNS LOVWLRLCKED SUPERMAN RETURNS UNITED 93 FAST AND FURIOUS THE NUN SCARY MOVIE 4 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSH	UNITED 93 THE NUN SUPERMAN RETURNS SUPERMAN RETURNS LOVWLRLCKED SUPERMAN RETURNS PACQUIAO THE MOVIE AMERICAN HAUNTING FAST AND FURIOUS SCARY MOVIE 4 LAKE HOUSE KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSH
SM NORTH EDSA SUPERMAN RETURNS UNITED 93 LOVEWRECKED SUPERMAN RETURNS THE NUN FAST AND FURIOUS 3 SUPERMAN RETURNS SUPERMAN RETURNS	PACQUIAO THE MOVIE KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSH SCARY MOVIE 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS UNITED 93 FAST AND FURIOUS SUPERMAN RETURNS LOVEWRECKED SUPERMAN RETURNS LAKE HOUSE THE NUN XMEN III	SUPERMAN RETURNS SUPERMAN RETURNS SCARY MOVIE 4 FAST AND FURIOUS LAKE HOUSE LOVWLRLCKED
SM CITY BICUTAN SUPERMAN RETURNS THE NUN FAST AND FURIOUS 3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	SM CITY DASMARIÑAS SUPERMAN RETURNS AMERICAN HAUNTING LAKE HOUSE SUPERMAN RETURNS	SM SUPERCENTER VALENCIA SUPERMAN RETURNS SUPERMAN RETURNS SCARY MOVIE 4 THE NUN
EVENT CALENDAR	CENTERstage	EVENT CALENDAR
A black and white promotional photograph featuring several young women. One woman in the foreground has long dark hair and is looking towards the camera. Another woman behind her is smiling broadly. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and what appears to be a stage or event setting.	TONIGHT! Saturday 8:30 pm THE PREMIERE FEAST! SM MALL OF ASIA Kapag Tumibok ang Push American Haunting Fast and Furious Lovewrecked Lake House Scary Movie 4 United 93 The Nun XMEN III Fall in Love	TONIGHT! Saturday 8:30 pm THE PREMIERE FEAST! SM MALL OF ASIA Kapag Tumibok ang Push American Haunting Fast and Furious Lovewrecked Lake House Scary Movie 4 United 93 The Nun XMEN III Fall in Love

SM CITY DAVAO	SM CITY BACOON	SM CITY PAMPANGA
AQUAMARINE	SM CITY BAGANAS	SUPERMAN RETURNS
SILENT HYILL	THE OMEN	SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS	SUPERMAN RETURNS	AMERICAN HAUNTING
SUPERMAN RETURNS	GARFIELD 2	KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
SM CITY MARILAO	SUBMERGED	THE NUN
SUPERMAN RETURNS	SM CITY LUCENA	SUPERMAN RETURNS
PACQUIAO THE MOVII	SUPERMAN RETURNS	SM CITY MOLINO
INSIDE MAN	GARFIELD 2	SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS	SUBMERGED	SCARY MOVIE 4
SM CITY DACCOR	SCARY MOVIE 4	AMERICAN HAUNTING
SCARY MOVIE 4	SM CITY CLARK	SM CITY STA. ROSA
THE NUN	SUPERMAN RETURNS	SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS	SUPERMAN RETURNS	SILENT HILL
LOVEWRECKED	INSIDE MAN	FAST AND FURIOUS
SUPERMAN RETURNS	FAILURE TO LAUNCH	THE NUN
SUPERMAN RETURNS	SUPERMAN RETURNS	
KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO	THE DARK	
FAST AND FURIOUS		
SM CITY CEBU	WISAYAS MINDBERG	SM CITY DAVID
CHAOS	SM CITY ILIODO	SUPERMAN RETURN
SUPERMAN RETURNS	TAKE THE LEAD	AMERICAN HAUNTING
INSIDE MAN	RESERVED	FAILURE TO LAUNCH
SCARY MOVIE 4	SUPERMAN RETURN	GRANDMA'S BOY
LAKE HOUSE	FAST AND FURIOUS	SUPERMAN RETURN
PACQUIAO THE MOVII	LAKE HOUSE	FAST AND FURIOUS
SUPERMAN RETURN	SUPERMAN RETURN	
SUPERMAN RETURN	RESERVED	
	AMERICAN HAUNTING	



A2 SATURDAY *Special*
SATURDAY JULY 8, 2000

By Noelani Torre

IT'S IRONIC, YOU HAVE TO ADMIT, that the superhero who embodies all of humanity's best qualities is not, in fact, a member of the human race.

Superman, despite his appellation, is an alien. Nevertheless, he is a universal icon of all the good things that man is capable of doing.

Perhaps, this is why we haven't allowed the Man of Steel to cross over into camp territory, in spite of the cape, the primary colors, and the underwear-over-tights look. He is too good to be true—but, that's the way we want him.

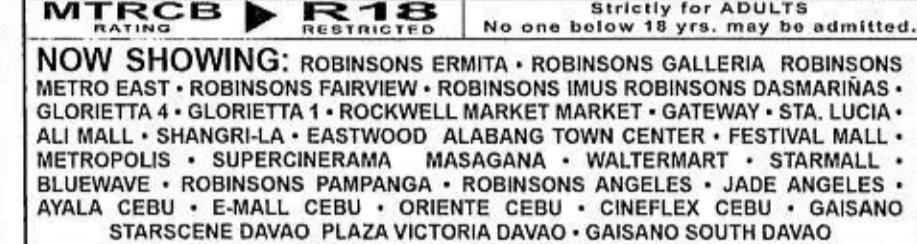
looks drop-dead gorgeous, has a heart of gold, and possesses amazing powers, we find it easier to relate to darker, more human characters. (Case in point: The guy with the bat suit, who walked away with this year's MTV movie award for best hero.)

In movies, we have a larger emotional investment in a hero struggling to become one. Still, with the right handling, even we, flawed beings, can relate to perfection—and this is ex-
TS
be admitted.
ROBINSONS

ROBINSONS
SMARÍÑAS •
STA. LUCIA •
CIVAL MALL •
TARMALL •
ANGEL'S •
actly what director Bryan Singer achieves in "Superman Returns."

Successor

A worthy successor to 1978's "Superman" and 1980's "Superman II," this long-awaited sequel gives us back the Superman we know and love, but with smoother-looking moves and just a little bit more shading around the edges.



ROUTH. Huge boots to fill.

Brandon Routh steps into the hard-to-fill red boots of Christopher Reeve, and despite not being the definitive Superman, manages to make them seem his own.

Picking up where the first two movies ended, "Superman Returns" has the Man of Steel returning to Earth after an abrupt five-year disappearance.

Issues

Things have changed a bit: Lois Lane (Kate Bosworth) now has a son (Tristan Lake Leabu), a live-in fiancé (James Marsden), and a Pulitzer Prize. Obviously, she has issues. Oh, and Lex Luthor (Kevin Spacey) is still around.

If you're a fan of the previous movies, you'll notice familiar elements. It feels like a homage to the Richard Donner original, what with lines being lifted, classic shots getting re-shot and the posthumous presence of Marlon

Brando. Sometimes, it approaches the point of slavish imitation, but it's quite effective in invoking nostalgia for the Caped Kryptonian of our childhood.

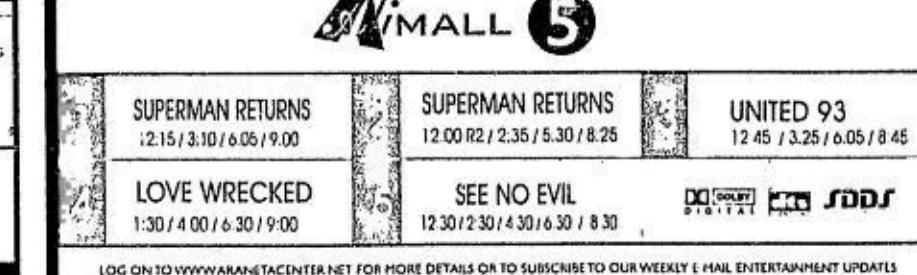
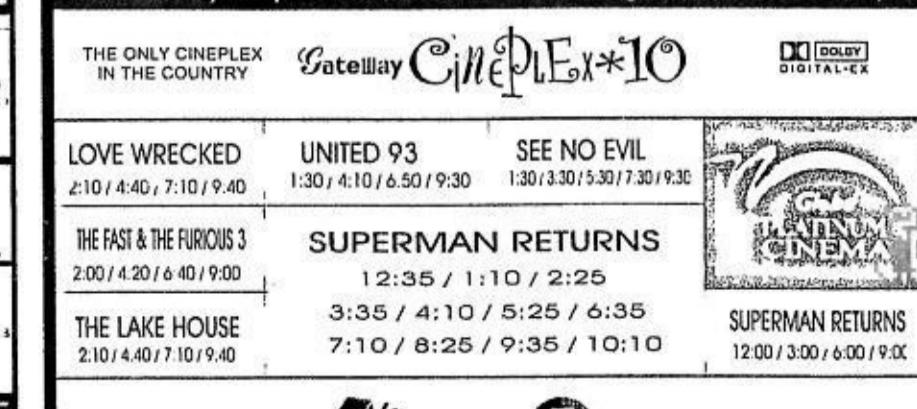
hood.

"Superman Returns" is an enjoyable watch, though plagued by missteps in slow pacing and an uninteresting Lois Lane. Still, some scenes work particularly well, and Clark Kent's undisguised yearning for Lois betrays an emotional vulnerability that makes him more human, and easier to love than his usual perfect self.



BEFORE & AFTER THE MOVIE DINE AT OVER 300 FOOD OUTLETS
AROUND THE CENTER • COME EARLY & AVOID THE RUSH

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph



SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2006

SATURDAY Special

A2D

Stargazing on the Great White Way

By Behn Cervantes

AS A STUDENT AT COLUMBIA University in New York in the mid-'60s, in between joining anti-Vietnam War rallies, going to Broadway shows was my main preoccupation.

Broadway productions were relatively cheap then I would write to my gangmates, Lino Brocka, Joonee Gamboa and Adul de Leon, about those wonderful experiences and wished they were there to share them with me.

Musical

I watched Anne Bancroft and Jason Robards in "The Devils of Luodanne," Lee Remick in "Wait Until Dark," and Sammy Davies in "Golden Boy," a musical that showcased the talented dynamo's versatility, vocal range and great sense of rhythm. Later, I watched him get into a stretch limo after his tumultuous performance.

I caught Henry Fonda in a rather forgettable play, but it was the chance to see the actor in person that prompted me to take advantage of the bargain-priced matinee tickets.

I was also quite taken by Christopher Plummer's performance in "The Royal Hunt of the Sun," where he alternately played both an Incan leader and a Spanish conquistador.

Spectacular

I watched Julie Harris in the musical, "Skyscraper." It wasn't a spectacular production, but since Harris was James Dean's leading in "East of Eden," how could I pass up the chance to watch her onstage, and tell Lino, Joonee and Adul about it?

I saw "Hello Dolly" merely because it starred Ginger Rogers. The show's producers gave Ginger a short dance number to satisfy the fans who came only to watch her.

A good friend, Lily Dichupa, gifted me with an orchestra seat to "Sweet Charity," the biggest musical hit at the time.

When I was in Minneapolis, I watched Jessica Tandy and Hume Cronyn in a Tyrone Guthrie production of Shakespeare's "Richard III."

Amazing

Another amazing out-of-town performance I saw was Chekov's "Ivanov," starring Vivien Leigh and John Gielgud, no less!

A classmate and I sneaked into the



ROGERS. Special dance number in "Hello Dolly."

theater to see "The Subject was Roses," starring Maureen O'Sullivan, Johnny Weismuller's Jane in "Tarzan."

I also saw Barbra Streisand in "Funny Girl,"

Glenda Jackson in "Marat/Sade," and the ethereal Geraldine Page in a play that never opened on Broadway. —Yummy details next week!

OPENS JULY 12

HIGHLY ENTERTAINING, DELIGHTFUL AND HEARTWARMING! GRADED "B" BY CEB

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

EDDIE GARCIA GLORIA ROMERO
CHERRY PIE PICACHE DIANA ZUBIRI
CHRISTIAN VAZQUEZ ALFRED VARGAS
KEANNA REEVES as Cristy and JOEY MARQUEZ

In alphabetical order

JASON ABALOS
TERENCE BAYLON
DION IGNACIO
MICHELLE MADRIGAL
& ALWIN UYTING



I wanna Be Happy

You can choose your friends but not your relatives

written and directed by
JOSE JAVIER REYES
a SEIKO Films Presentation



DRIFTING TO VICTORY

RATED PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

PG-13



in Andrew Lam Shun-shan

Shawn Yue Jay Chou
Edison Chen Anne Suzuki
Chapman To Jordan Chan
Anthony Wong

OPEN JULY 12

ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.
FOUR PLANES WERE HIJACKED.
THREE OF THEM REACHED THEIR TARGET.
THIS IS THE STORY OF THE FOURTH.



NOW SHOWING

Released Through Solar Entertainment Corporation

"SPELLBINDING"

BAZ LUHRMANN, DIRECTOR

★★★★★ "ASTOUNDINGLY INTENSE"

DAN KELLER, THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"ABSOLUTELY EXTRAORDINARY"

JULIA KELLER, THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"STUNNING"

DAVID DENBY, THE NEW YORKER

★★★★★ "POWERFUL"

ROBERT DENENBERG, THE NEW YORKER

"UNQUESTIONABLY BRILLIANT"

AVI LEVY, THE NEW YORKER

"UNMISSABLE"

DAVID COWLEY, TIME

"A MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT"

PETER TRAVERS, ROLLING STONE

"UNFORGETTABLE"

DAVID EDWARDS, DAILY MAIL

"I URGE YOU TO SEE UNITED 93"

MARY KEDDIE, THE OBSERVER

RATING R-13
STRICTLY
FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

From the Acclaimed Director
of 'THE BOURNE SUPREMACY'
and 'BLOODY SUNDAY'

UNITED 93

United International Pictures

NOW SHOWING

Released Through Solar Entertainment Corporation

M M T-A

METRO MANILA
THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SWANG CINEPLEX

Masagana CINEMA

Swang Cineplex Plaza 2000 cor.
San Beda Road, Makati City
(Pasig) tel 833-3290 / 833-3274

(Pasay) tel 833-3290 / 833-3274

1 2 3
SEE NO EVIL SUPERMAN RETURNS TAKE THE LEAD

1 2 3 4
SEE NO EVIL SUPERMAN RETURNS TAKE THE LEAD

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (044) 444-5045

1 2 3 4
AQUAMARINE SUPERMAN RETURNS

1 2 3 4
AQUAMARINE SUPERMAN RETURNS

PREMIERE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-5001 to 03

1 2 3 4
SUPERMAN RETURNS THE INSIDE MAN

1 2 3 4
SEE NO EVIL SUPERMAN RETURNS TAKE THE LEAD

CINEMA 2000

Walter Mart Makati
Walter Mart Center, Chino Roces Ave., cor.
Antonio Aranas Pdg del Pilar, Makati City
(Balgas, Batangas) tel (047) 237-2007

1 2 3 4
SUPERMAN RETURNS SCARY MOVIE 4

1 2 3 4
THE OMEN 666 SCARY MOVIE 4

EWING CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave E. 12, Quezon City
(Quezon City) tel (02) 857-9522

1 2 3 4
SUPERMAN RETURNS SUPERMAN RETURNS

1 2 3 4
SUPERMAN RETURNS SUPERMAN RETURNS

Starmall

(Mandaluyong) tel 726-0550

1 2 3 4
SUPERMAN RETURNS SUPERMAN RETURNS

1 2 3 4
SUPERMAN RETURNS SUPERMAN RETURNS

metropolis star

(Alabang) tel 804-2955, 543-2994

1 2 3 4
KAPAO TUMBOOK ANG PUSO SCARY MOVIE - 4

1 2 3 4
KAPAO TUMBOOK ANG PUSO SCARY MOVIE - 4

CINEMA 2000

Walter Mart
(Cainta) tel (049) 545-7383

1 2 3 4
SILENT HILLS LAKE HOUSE

1 2 3 4
SILENT HILLS LAKE HOUSE

THEATRES

(P. Paul Y. Cayetano Pkwy.
Makati) tel (02) 800-2000

1 2 3 4
SUPERMAN RETURNS SUPERMAN RETURNS

1 2 3 4
LAKE HOUSE SCARY MOVIE 4

PACIFIC MALL CINEMAGIC

(Pasig) tel 045-600-5217

1 2 3 4
SCARY MOVIE 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS GARFIELD 2 SCARY MOVIE 4

1 2 3 4
SCARY MOVIE 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS GARFIELD 2 SCARY MOVIE 4

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel (075) 566-6771

1 2 3 4
SCARY MOVIE 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS GARFIELD 2 SCARY MOVIE 4

1 2 3 4
SCARY MOVIE 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS GARFIELD 2 SCARY MOVIE 4

Filinvest

(Muntinlupa) tel 850-3573 or 72

1 2 3 4
UNITED 93 SCARY MOVIE 4

1 2 3 4
UNITED 93 SCARY MOVIE 4

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Paranaque) tel (045) 795-3320

1 2 3 4
SUPERMAN RETURNS GARFIELD 2 SCARY MOVIE 4

1 2 3 4
SUPERMAN RETURNS GARFIELD 2 SCARY MOVIE 4

Lianas Cinema

(Paranaque) tel 640-4748

1 2 3 4
SCARY MOVIE 4 PACQUINO

1 2 3 4
SCARY MOVIE 4 PACQUINO

Blue Wave

(Mandaluyong) tel 850-1726

1 2 3 4
SCARY MOVIE 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

1 2 3 4
SCARY MOVIE 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 535-3556

1 2 3 4
SCARY MOVIE 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

1 2 3 4
SCARY MOVIE 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SUPER CINERAMA

(GenSan Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733-4228

1 2 3 4
SUPERMAN RETURNS LOVE WRECKED

1 2 3 4
SUPERMAN RETURNS LOVE WRECKED

1 2 3 4
SEE NO EVIL SUPERMAN RETURNS

1 2 3 4
SEE NO EVIL SUPERMAN RETURNS

1 2 3 4
SUPERMAN RETURNS LOVE WRECKED

1 2 3 4
SUPERMAN RETURNS LOVE WRECKED

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 481-0729

KUMALAS NA SA LANDLINE NA KAUNTI ANG OFFER!



LIPAT NA SA PLDT LANDLINE NA MAY SUPERPOWERS SA OFFERS!

**DO MORE! SA SUPER SULIT NA LANDLINE,
UNLIMITED TAWAGAN AT SUPER TIPID NA INTERNET!**

- Free Installation
- Free 2 months Monthly Service Fee
- Unlimited P10/Call Service PLDT to PLDT NDD + first 10 calls FREE, just dial 10-10-10 to subscribe
- Landline and myDSL Tipid Bundle: Save up to P600/month

**REACH MORE! SA SUPER DAMING PLDT AT
SMART SUBSCRIBERS NA MATATAWAGAN!**

- Free SMART BUDDY SIM + 2-day Unlimited Texting
- **SUPER SULIT** Unlimited Call Plan
 - + P200/month for residential
 - Unlimited PLDT to PLDT NDD
 - Unlimited PLDT Vibe Dial-up Internet
 - SMART call rate of P6.50/min
 - IDD call rate of P8/min

PANAHON NA PARA UMASENSO!

KAYA LIPAT NA SA PLDT! NOW NA!



Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1516, Series of 2006. See flyers for details.

SATURDAY Special

Mr. C provides preview peek at 'Philippine Idol'

ON JULY 29, ABC-5 SCORES A MAJOR PROGRAMMING coup when "Philippine Idol," the local edition of "American Idol," premieres on the network.

Anticipation is building up as the talent search's debut nears: Will its judges—Pilita Corrales, Francis Magalona and Ryan Cayabyab—have as much bite as Simon Cowell? Will the show discover more Kelly Clarksons than William Hungs?

Everybody's favorite

We finally caught up with everybody's favorite Mr. C after the Mindanao auditions for "Idol." The inclusion of Cayabyab, who, unlike Corrales and Magalona, didn't have to audition to get the coveted post, is one the show's advantages. Will he assume the role of

'Al's' Mr. Mean, Simon Cowell?

Ryan explains: "The show follows the same format, but we're not required to 'copy' Simon, Paula (Abdul) or Randy

(Jackson). We play ourselves. We had to go through a workshop that taught us how to tell contestants if they could proceed to the next level or not, at kung paano bitin ang decision to generate excitement.

"The emphasis is on honesty. We tell contestants how they can improve their skills. Iba ang style ni Simon, he uses the same approach, but he embellishes his judgment with harsh words. He may be brutal, but he knows what he's talking about."

Choices

When we asked Cayabyab if he argues with Francis and Pilita when they don't agree on their choices, he quips: "Hindi kami nag-away—hindi pa, anyway! (laughs) Pero, may instances na nagkakagulatan kami sa choices ng isa-tisa. Sa umpsa, takot kaming mag-turn down ng contestants, we always backed up each other's choices.

"Iba-iba ang pananaw namin sa performance... and those differences are what we bring to the show. Pilita has six decades' worth of experience. She sees kung sino ang magla-last. She doesn't mince words. Francis, on the other hand, champions a different cause: He's not impressed by birit and sigaw—isya yan sa crusades niya. Ako, mas technical. I look at things in a more musical context.

"Ayaw namin ng masyadong maraming kulot, lalo na kung nawawala na ang melody ng kanta. Kung hindi mo alam ang lyrics, bagsak ka na agad, kasi hindi mo pinag-aralan ang kanta. The choice of song can make or break a contestant, so you have to sing a song that fits you."

Villains

"Initially, we didn't want to be perceived as villains, but eventually—and surprisingly—parang ako ang naging villain sa aming tayo! Makikita mo sa Manila auditions (laughs)."

Cayabyab, who has always championed Filipino talent, admits that the task of choosing just one big winner is daunting. He recalls: "Sumakit ang ulo ko—ang daming magagaling! The show has attracted a certain sector of Pinoy talents who don't usually audition for Disneyland, 'Miss Saigon,' 'Pinoy Pop Superstar' or 'Pinoy Big Brother.' We were overwhelmed by the turnout—there were so many excellent, good-looking, charismatic performers who wanted to try their luck.

"In the Manila leg alone, only 50 slots were available, but we ended up accommodating 115 people sa dami ng magagaling. We will have around 170 candidates from the Visayas and Mindanao. In the succeeding rounds, they will be asked to learn and perform portions of songs, at doon namin tatanggalin ang mahihina—from 80, 60, down to 40. After that, they will start singing in trios and quartets. As judges, we will choose who will make it to the Top 24,



MAGALONA AND CORRALES. He doesn't like birit, she doesn't mince words.

then we will present them to the public for judging."

Rejection

So, have you had William Hungs in the try-outs? Mr. C reveals: "The show will show the best and the worst of the lot. You'll see some emotions flaring up—a number of auditionees couldn't take rejection well. Some begged

and cried for another chance. But, unlike 'AI,' the Pinoy contestants were generally *mababait* and polite—and we didn't have as many weirdos as those we saw on 'AI.'

(laughs)

A "Philippine Idol," he says, has to be an extraordinary performer: "Hindi ka lang dapat basta magaling kumanta. And, good looks can

MR. C's/A3-2



CAYABYAB.

The talent search's big winner should inspire Filipinos.

SONY

**THE BRIGHTEST STAR
LIKE NO OTHER**



SATURDAY,
JULY 8, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY Special

Mitch Valdes in most daring act to date

By Nestor U. Torre

OVER THE PAST YEARS, WE'VE seen Mitch Valdes in a number of challenging one-woman musical-comedy acts. But, we dare say that her latest show, "Been Der, Bin Dat" at the Mandarin hotel's Captain's Bar, is her most daring stand-up performance to date.

No, Mitch doesn't take off her clothes and engage in interesting activities with assorted objects and compliant creatures, she simply and bravely goes out on a limb and creates comedy from different aspects of her life.

What's so new and extra-daring about that? Mitch has been mining the lodestone of her life for laughs for a long time now, so the thrust isn't all that novel.

But what is new is the fact that, in her latest act at Captain's Bar, Mitch talks about even her unfunny experiences—and still manages to generate giggles, laughs and whoops all the way!

In stitches

Even more impressively, there were quite a number of teens and tweens in the audience when we caught the show two Fridays ago, and they didn't have the foggiest notion about the '70s TV shows, films and personalities Mitch was talking about—and yet, they too were kept in stitches by Mitch's comedic zingers and wise-gal insights about the bumbling, fumbling boobooos she's made in the name of love.

Present moment

Mitch daringly wings it without a full script, and relies a lot on the present moment and the different ways it moves her.

Of course, she's greatly helped by her extensive experience at solo club performances, plus her singing ability, which comes in handy when she's talked herself into a corner (which hardly ever happens, anyway).

Also very helpful is the fact that, this time around, Mitch focuses her comic reminiscences on her experiences in show business. So, she name-drops popular stellar monikers that the older members of the audience are interested in, and her musical inserts flow naturally from the show biz material at hand.

Risky

When you think about it, it's really quite amazing that Mitch succeeds in her most daring and risky act to date. Watching her is like observing a high-wire artist removing the safety net beneath her, in a sort of performance death wish cannily calculated to further test and extend her limits as a crowd-pleaser.

Things got really chummy last June 30 when Mitch happily announced that her show, which was supposed to end its run that night, was being extended for all Fridays in July. Well, what are you waiting for—Christmas? Call 750-8888 ext. 2446 or 721-0635.



VALDES. Mines the lodestone of her life for giggles, laughs and whoops.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS • THX	6 UNITED 93
12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30	12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	7 LAKE HOUSE
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00	1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
3 SEE NO EVIL	8 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50	12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	9 SPL
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00	1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
5 LOVE WRECKED	10 SCARY MOVIE 4
11:25 1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50	1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

632-6118

ERMITA

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	10:20 1:15 4:10 7:05 10:00
2 UNITED 93	5 LOVE WRECKED
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	10:20 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
3 SEE NO EVIL	6 LAKE HOUSE
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
4 SPL	7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

536-7809 to 12

METRO EAST

1 THE NUN	5 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	6 LAKE HOUSE
11:25 2:40 5:55 9:10	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
3 SEE NO EVIL	7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10	12:15 3:35 7:00
4 LOVE WRECKED	8 SPL
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10	2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00

682-8193 to 882-8199

NOVALICHES

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 SPL
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 SEE NO EVIL
CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575 PIONEER 887-6371	
1 SCARY MOVIE 4	
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	
3 RESERVE	
4 RESERVE	

835-3231 / 835-3229-30

STA. ROSA

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	1 UNITED 93
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 RESERVE	3 SEE NO EVIL
4 RESERVE	4 LOVE WRECKED
SNEAK PREVIEWS	

LIPA

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	1 UNITED 93
2 BANDIDAS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING	3 SEE NO EVIL
4 GARFIELD 2	4 LOVE WRECKED
STARMILLS	

JULY 10 and 11

Opens JULY 19

MTRCB Rating: G

For SCREENING SCHEDULE
pls call our CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555 or visit us
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com



DASMARINAS

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 THE NUN	2 BANDIDAS
3 SPL	3 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
4 SEE NO EVIL	4 GARFIELD 2
ANGELES 845-8224	

ANGELES

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SEE NO EVIL	2 BANDIDAS
3 TAKE THE LEAD	3 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
4 THE INSIDE MAN	4 GARFIELD 2
IMUS	

IMUS

1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3	1 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 THE LAST HOLIDAY
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 THE NUN
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 SEE NO EVIL
BACOLOD	

BACOLOD

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
2 CHAOS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 LAKE HOUSE	3 LAKE HOUSE
4 THE RENT	4 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
ILO ILO	

ILO ILO

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 LAKE HOUSE	3 LAKE HOUSE
4 THE RENT	4 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
The Perfect Gift All Year Round	

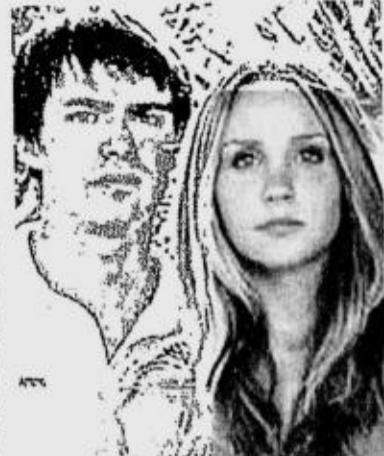
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and events/reservations please call: Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

NOW SHOWING Campy fun in zesty rom-com

By Rito P. Asilo

"Lovewrecked"D: Randal Kleiser
S: Amanda Bynes, Chris Carmack, Jonathan Bennett

dreams, she doesn't know whether to be sad or glad. But, when she realizes they're just three miles away from a luxury resort, she hides this from him—and seizes the opportunity to buy time to win his heart!

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the "distant" luxury resort, Jenny's good friend, the handsome but geeky Ryan Howell (Jonathan Bennett)—who's secretly in love with her—waits for her return. When he finally finds Jenny and Jason, despite his feelings for his wacky friend, he goes along with her idea and willingly supplies the "exotic" food she feeds Jason on the "deserted" island.

However, Jenny's plans begin to backfire when her competitor, the sexy Alexis (Jamie-Lynn DiScala), gets wind of the situation—and soon becomes the third "survivor" awashed on the island. Soon after, a nasty catfight over Jason commences! Who ends up with whom in this wacky merry-go-round? Guess.

BENNETT AND BYNES. Wacky ride on romantic merry-go-round.

When 18-year-old Jenny Riley (Bynes) finds herself marooned on an island with rock star, Jason Masters (Chris Carmack), the man of her

AMANDA BYNES ("SHE'S THE MAN") approaches her ridiculous, love-struck teenybopper roles in campy rom-coms with youthful fun, light-hearted ardor and tongue-in-cheek comic relish. And director Randal Kleiser ("Grease," "The Blue Lagoon") takes full advantage of this. Surely, you don't go to see an Amanda Bynes movie expecting to watch a substantial Meryl Streep starrer, do you?

But, the young actress' wholesome impudence always manages to sway viewers to be more forgiving of her movies' narrative implausibilities. To a certain extent, she makes them work—albeit on a superficial level. "Lovewrecked" is no different.

Best of everything

SO MUCH IS WRITTEN ABOUT show biz personalities—from acting achievements and looks to marriages and pregnancies. But, very little is said, written or heard about the Greatest Personality of all. In the Bhagavad-gita, the Most Glorious Entity talks about perceptions and manifestations that people should learn to appreciate:

Limitless

"The Supreme Person said to Arjuna: 'I will tell you of my splendid manifestations; my opulence is limitless. I sit in the heart of all creatures. I am the beginning, middle and end of all beings.'

LOTUS POND**R. Valencia and S. Bismarck**

I am the conclusive truth. I am splendor, victory, adventure, and the strength of the strong!

Silence

"For those who seek victory, I am morality. Of secret things, I am silence. For the wise, I am wisdom. I am the generating seed of existence. No being exists without me. Beautiful, glorious and mighty creations spring from the spark of my splendor."

Knowing and serving Him should be the goal of our existence. Only then will we achieve the best of everything.

"Of lights, I am the radiant sun and, among the stars, I am the moon. Of bodies of water, I am the ocean. Of weapons, I am the thunderbolt. Among subduers, I am time. Of purifiers, I am the wind. I am the spiritual science of the Self. Among logicians, I

have a common stomach condition known as Dyspepsia.

What is Dyspepsia?

Dyspepsia is a recurring discomfort in the chest and stomach regions. Aside from bloating, gas and stomach pains, other symptoms include heavy stomach, fullness and nausea.

Dyspeptic symptoms usually appear when stomach movement slows down and food does not empty from the stomach. These symptoms often follow meals, but can occur anytime.

Treatment

Frequent remedies taken for Dyspepsia-like symptoms are drinks like tea, soft drinks or antacids. These remedies may relieve some, but not all of the symptoms of Dyspepsia.

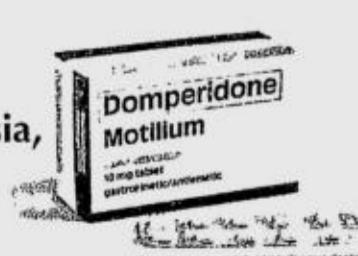
A class of medication called Prokinetics can relieve Dyspeptic symptoms by restoring motility or normal stomach movement. Prokinetic drugs are what most doctors prescribe for Dyspepsia.

The most prescribed Prokinetic drug is Domperidone, available in 10mg tablet form.

See Your Doctor

If symptoms persist, it is best to see your doctor. A Philippine Society of Gastroenterology (PSG) doctor will recommend the right treatment for Dyspepsia.

Dr. Ramon C. Carpio
Chairman, Council on Dyspepsia
Philippine Society of Gastroenterology

Sa Dyspepsia,**the Human Stain**

ANTHONY HOPKINS NICOLE KIDMAN

"Incisive, Mature, Literate And Profoundly Heartbreaking, This Is A Work Of Art."

*How far would you go to escape the past?*

Exclusive on video

AVAILABLE AT: ASTROVISION • VIDEO CITY • TOWER RECORDS • MUSIC 1 • SM RECORD BARS • ASTROPLUS
ASIA • LANDMARK RECORD BAR • RADIO CITY • MUSIC NOOK • MUSIC STATION • MUSIC LAND • SHOPWISE • PUREGOLD

MIRAMAX



Other Release Title:



For Inquiries Call C-Interactive Hotline: 374-7693 • 373-4760

Dinosaurs rule at Hallmark Channel

THIS MONTH ON THE HALLMARK CHANNEL, "Dinotopia" presents a secret world where dinosaurs and humans co-exist in harmony. Premiering July 10 to 14 at 8 p.m., "Dinotopia, The Miniseries" features five episodes featuring two young boys interacting with digital dinosaurs created by London's FrameStone. The series has reaped many awards for its outstanding visual effects and animation.

MONTAGE

On July 16 at 9 p.m. in "Dinotopia: The Outsider," a band of ruthless island looters have taken over what's left of paradise and discovers the key to its collapse.

On July 23 at 9 p.m., "Dinotopia: The Election" turns the peaceful city into a congested metropolis. Could extinction be far behind? —Not with the blessed event that occurs—the birth of a dinosaur.

And, on July 30 at 9 p.m., "Dinotopia: New Horizons," where humans and dinosaurs are exposed to the time-warping secrets of a stranger's life, and the sporting pleasure of the competitive world their new friend Frank has left behind.

Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards

The much-awaited 2006 Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards Preview Party is happening today at the Aliw Theater, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Hosted by Noel dela Rosa and Alexa Ortega, this year's party is going to be a "circus-centric" celebration that's big on fun, laughter—and of course, slime!

Plus, favorite guest performers Sandwich and Sam Concepcion, and celebrities galore. Nickelodeon superstars, SpongeBob SquarePants and Patrick Star, will join the celebration.

Snippets of the 19th Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards will also be shown. This year's "Pinoy Wannabe" nominees are Sam Milby, Concepcion, Iza Calzado, Manny Pacquiao and Bianca Gonzales.

At noon on July 15, the whole Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards event will be shown. It's hosted by Jack Black and showcases stellar appearances by Will Smith, Lindsay Lohan, Chris Rock, Kelly Clarkson, Robin Williams and many others.

Movies on TV

On HBO, July 8 at 3 p.m., "The Big Preview: Pirates of the Caribbean—Dead Man's Chest." July 9 at 11:15 a.m., "The Stepford Wives." July 10 at 12:15 p.m., "Wag the Dog." 9 p.m., "The Manchurian Candidate." July 11 at 7:20 p.m., "After the Sunset." 10:45 p.m., "The School of Rock." July 12 at 9 a.m., "A Thousand Acres." July 13 at 7:30 p.m., "Mad Dog and Glory." July 14 at 5:15 p.m., "If Lucy Fell."

On Cinemax, July 8 at 9:35 a.m., "The Outlaw Josey Wales." July 9 at 9 p.m., "The Last

**FORD AND ZUBIRI.** Topbill "Firewall" and "I Wanna Be Happy," respectively.

Samurai." July 10 at 2:55 p.m., "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town." July 11 at 11 p.m., "Mystic River." July 12 at 12:40 p.m., "Phantom of the Rue Morgue." July 13 at 8 a.m., "Cat Ballou." July 14 at 2 p.m., "The Notorious Landlady." July 15 at 7:30 p.m., "I Accuse."

"Firewall"

Warner Home Video has released the Harrison Ford starrer, "Firewall," on video. The special promo VCD or DVD package includes a limited ED pack of three other Ford starrers: "Frantic," "Presumed Innocent" and "The Fugitive."

In "Firewall," Ford plays a bank security chief who has designed a computer system and firewall to protect his employer from fraud. One day, however, he's ambushed and finds himself staring down a gun barrel.

Acting with the best of them

Diana Zubiri is justifiably proud of her performance in "I Wanna Be Happy," which opens on July 12. In the Seiko comedy by Joey Reyes, Diana doesn't go sexy and instead acquires herself well in dramatic scenes with outstanding actors like Eddie Garcia, Gloria Romero and Cherry Pie Picache. "I Wanna Be Happy" was graded "B" by the Cinema Evaluation Board.

Shamrock

The popular Shamrock Band performs at 5 p.m. today at SM Bacoor, as part of its "Are You Serious?" mall tour.

'GamePlan'

At 1:30 p.m. on July 9, "GamePlan" on Studio 23 has hosts Paolo Soler and Wowie Meloto visiting the Elorde Boxing Gym, breakdancing with the crew of Battle Dynamics Philippines, and tripping with "total misfit," Ramon Bautista.

"RV" sneak previews

Robin Williams' new family comedy, "RV," will have sneak previews on July 10 and 11 in selected theaters nationwide. The film is about the "vacation from hell" that Williams' dysfunctional family goes on in a recreational vehicle that seems to have an even crazier mind of its own.

MTRCB ► PG-13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed to enter if accompanied by a parent or adult.

The Funny Girl from She's THE MAN is back in another Hilarious Romantic Comedy

AMANDA BYNES

To get the guy
of her dreams,
One girl is really
going overboard.

LOVE
WRECKED
NOW SHOWING



How far would you go to escape the past?

the Human Stain

ANTHONY HOPKINS NICOLE KIDMAN

"Incisive, Mature, Literate And Profoundly Heartbreaking, This Is A Work Of Art."



Exclusive on video

How far would you go to escape the past?

the Human Stain

ANTHONY HOPKINS NICOLE KIDMAN

"Incisive, Mature, Literate And Profoundly Heartbreaking, This Is A Work Of Art."



Other Release Title:



For Inquiries Call C-Interactive Hotline: 374-7693 • 373-4760

IN THIS ISSUE

- Court stops SEC from holding owners' meet for Philcomsat unit /B2
- IT, BPO firms set to tap rich European markets /B7



TOURISM Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano recently met with Francesco Frangialli, secretary general of the United Nations World Tourism Organization at the UNWTO headquarters on Capital Haya in Madrid, Spain. Secretary Durano was part of the presidential party during the state visit to Spain and took the opportunity to discuss the Philippines' formal bid to host the 5th UNWTO forum for local authorities and parliamentarians with interest in tourism in Manila for 2007. This three-day forum is expected to attract some 400 parliamentarians from UNWTO member countries worldwide.

Changing gov't policies to deter mine investors

By Daxim L. Lucas

LARGE, FOREIGN MINING FIRMS WILL BE deterred from investing in the country if the government continues to vacillate on its policies for the mining sector, a leading advocate of the industry warned yesterday.

In an interview, Chamber of Mines of the Philippines president Benjamin Philip Romualdez pointed out that foreign investors were critical for the development of the mining industry since local companies lacked the capital to exploit the full potential of the

GOV'T/B2

Peso rallies vs dollar

Closes at 2-month high of 52.35 to \$1

By Doris C. Dumla

THE PESO YESTERDAY GAINED 38 CENTAVOS to close at a two-month high of 52.35 against the dollar as the regional financial markets cheered rosier investment prospects alongside peaking interest rates in the United States.

The local currency has swung back to being a net gainer against the dollar so far this year, moving 1.4-percent higher since ending at 53.09:\$1 in 2005.

"The market has already digested the fact that our economic fundamentals are strong," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said.

"The US economy is handicapped by uncertainties about the dollar. There's a long-term view that the US dollar is poised to depreciate," Guinigundo added.

Trading was bullish across currency markets in the region, led by the Indonesian rupiah, which surged after Bank Indonesia hinted of an aggressive reduction in interest rates, in turn seen to benefit the local bond market.

After ending at 52.73 on Thursday, the peso opened stronger at 52.63, which marked its intra-day low, and strengthened throughout the day to close near the day's high of 52.34 against the dollar.

The closing rate of 52.35 yesterday was the currency's strongest finish since the 52.15:\$1 on May 15.

Volume traded at the Philippine Dealing System likewise swelled to \$589.2 million yesterday from the previous day's \$460.42 million.

"Corporate demand for dollars thinned after the rush at month's end so there's room for the peso to test 52.25 to 53.15 to \$1," Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief

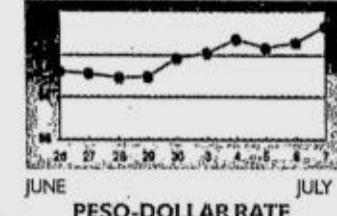
PESO/B2

A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

The Los Angeles Group, Inc., a member of the Association of Petroleum Refiners, has released the following statement:

"With demand increasing, we are pleased to see that Petron Xtra Unleaded is now available in more stations across the country."

INDICATORS CURRENCIES



P 52.35 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., July 7, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 1.35% higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.35 percent higher yesterday as investors picked up bargains after Thursday's sharp sell-off, dealers said.

They also drew inspiration from Wall Street's advance and a rally in commodity and metals prices overnight which gave the miners a boost.

SHARES/B2

Before P1,344,000



Now P999,000*

That's P345,000 you get to keep when you drive away with the Chevrolet Lumina. There's no better time to splurge.

Deluxe leather seats • Leather-wrapped steering wheel with tilt • 4-wheel anti-lock disc brake system • Front dual airbags
Hydraulic power steering • Concert Sound II with 6-Speaker System • Fog lamps

*For straight out cash buy. Promo until July 31, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1524, Series of 2006.

3-YEAR OR 100,000 KM.
WARRANTY
(WHICHEVER COMES FIRST)

CHEVROLET
ROADSIDE
ASSISTANCE
24 hr.

1000-1000-0506

Test drive today at your nearest Chevrolet/GM dealer: MAKATI 867-8183 to 87 • QUEZON AVENUE 374-1250 to 59 • SHAW 535-4944, 533-8340, 533-8375, 533-1263 • PASIG 672-1612 to 14, 672-1480 • ALABANG 771-1208 to 09 • NORTH EDSA 374-9902 to 97, 374-9963 • MANILA 564-0129 • CEBU (032) 234-0428 to 29 • PAMPANGA (045) 663-3333, (045) 880-2000 DAVAO (082) 300-7777, (082) 235-3811 • DAGUPAN (075) 523-7777, (075) 523-1835, (075) 515-5577 • ILOILO (033) 329-2088

CHEVROLET



WE'LL BE THERE.

Court stops SEC from holding owners' meet for Philcomsat unit

Resolution of ownership row remains hanging

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS STOPPED the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) from ordering the holding of a stockholders' meeting for Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC).

PHC is 80-percent owned by satellite technology pioneer Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat). Both companies are owned by Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (POTC) whose shares were sequestered by the Aquino administration in 1986 on allegations that these were acquired using ill-gotten wealth.

The appellate court's order was issued last July 5 by the special 14th division and was signed by Associate Justice Vicente Roxas.

The CA issued a temporary restraining order in favor of a petition filed by PHC president Manuel Nieto Jr. last April 11 against the SEC and its general counsel, Vernetta Umali-Paco.

GMA-7 gives up channel 27 slot

By Daxim L. Lucas

GMA NETWORK INC. HAS DROPPED ITS plan to transmit the television signals of a subsidiary over the channel 27 slot of Lopez family-owned Central Cable TV or SkyCable.

The unexpected move comes even after telecommunications regulators ruled in favor of GMA Network in its dispute with SkyCable over the channel assignment, effectively giving the former the right to displace the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) from the channel 27 slot.

Instead, GMA Network released a statement yesterday saying that its Quality Television (QTV) 11 programs would be made available on the channel 24 slot of both SkyCable and its down-market unit Home Cable starting July 12.

GMA Network spokesperson Butch Raquel declined to disclose the reason for the firm's sudden about face, saying only in a text message that the move "was the subject of an agreement between both parties."

The network's official statement said the new channel assignment was decided on "after broadcast authorities from both GMA Network and Central CATV formally signed an agreement recently."

Network officials familiar with the controversy said, however, that GMA Network's plan to take over the channel 27 slot was not technically feasible from the start.

"Broadcasting a very high frequency (VHF) channel on the same slot on cable and over the airwaves will cause interference to the signal," the official said, requesting anonymity. "The signal will be compromised, just like what happens during microphone feedback."

Despite this, GMA Network pressed ahead with its complaint before the National Telecommunications Commission "as a point of principle," another official said, referring to the bitter network war between GMA-7 and its larger rival ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., which is owned by the same Lopez family that owns SkyCable.

In its statement, GMA Network said the deal with SkyCable stipulated that "programs that currently air [over] ZOE Channel 11 and GMA UHF Channel 27 will be carried and/or aired by Central CATV (SkyCable and Home Cable) [over] cable channel 24."

Changing gov't policies . . .

From page B1

country's metal and mineral reserves.

"There will always be noise [from opponents of mining] in any country," he said, referring to civil society, environmental and Church-oriented groups opposed to the development of the local mining sector. "That doesn't put [the potential investors] off. What will deter them is if government's policies continue to shift and change."

The administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo had initially welcomed the resurgence of the mining sector with open arms last year, but its enthusiasm has waned in recent months in the face of popular opposition to the industry.

The government is hoping to be able to tap the country's estimated \$840 billion in metal and mineral reserves to help lift the country out of poverty.

Romualdez, however, welcomed the rabid opposition to mining from some sectoral groups, saying it was part of the country's "vibrant democracy."

"When an influential group like the

Nieto's petition asked the CA to prevent the SEC from implementing two orders—one dated Feb. 26 and another issued on April 4 this year—creating a nomination and election committee and calling for an annual stockholder's meeting of PHC last May 4.

PHC was able to hold a special stockholders' meeting but not an annual stockholders' meeting, which would have elected the new PHC board. The special meeting held in May was only to extend PHC's corporate life.

The SEC stopped the holding of an annual stockholders' meeting of PHC after the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) appealed a decision made by an SEC-led nomenklatura in PHC that validated the proxies of Philcomsat president Victor Africa.

The PCGG contested Africa's proxies, claiming it owned majority of Philcomsat's shares and should be the one represented in PHC.

These issues are now pending with the CA.

The CA's July 5 order granted the TRO for a period of 60 days from the day the notice is served.

The SEC was also directed to comment within 10 days from the receipt of the CA's order.

Shareholders of POTC, Philcomsat and PHC have been embroiled in an almost decade-long legal feud for control of the three companies. On one side is the group of the 90-year-old Nieto. On the other are the Ilusorio, Africa and Ponce-Enrile families.

The Africa group, one of the founding shareholders of Philcomsat, said the feud started in 1998 when the Nieto group allegedly turned a social gathering into a stockholders' meeting that installed the latter on the board of Philcomsat.

Another version was that the feud started over a sibling rivalry involving a second generation of shareholders in the Philcomsat group. At stake now in the cash-rich PHC are assets worth P1.5 billion.



WELD YOUR DREAMS.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Administrator Armand Arreza (2nd from right) and Olongapo City Vice Mayor Rolen Paulino (3rd from right) observe a Korean instructor of Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Co. demonstrate the use of a high-tech welding machine, commonly found in shipyards worldwide. The first batch of 100 local trainees will receive rigid training on the use of shipyard machines for three months in the most modern training center, built by HHIC at a cost of P40 million in Subic, Zambales, before their deployment for work in the shipyard at the Redondo Peninsula.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

URC hikes stake in Robinson's Land

BRANDED SNACK FOOD COMPANY UNIVERSAL Robina Corp. has raised its stake in sister property firm Robinsons Land Corp. to between 18 and 19 percent after acquiring shares owned by JG Summit Holdings affiliate Express Holdings Inc. in the property developer.

In a separate disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), URC said it acquired 293.62 million shares of Express Holdings representing roughly 13 percent, which will add to URC's existing 5.1 percent in the property developer.

Sources said the acquisition was done two years ago but the transaction was reflected only now after the Gokongwei group secured certain regulatory approvals.

The disclosure is also being done in preparation for RLC's planned share offering.

With the transaction, Express Holdings will no longer hold shares in RLC. JG Summit Holdings, the Gokongwei family's flag-

ship company, is the biggest shareholder in RLC with 72.2 percent.

RLC closed at P10.75 a share yesterday.

RLC is planning to raise \$220 million in fresh capital but may have to defer its plans as it awaits for regional markets to stabilize. RLC was earlier considering to offer the new share this month.

"If the market opens up good, the offering will happen this year," RLC president Lance Gokongwei earlier said.

Sources said RLC may push through with the proposed offer either in the fourth quarter or within the first quarter next year.

RLC's share offer will consist of up to 932.8 million shares, of which up to 450 million shares will be the primary offer or involve newly issued shares.

The price will be computed based on the average trading price of RLC's shares during the 10 days preceding the pricing date of the offer, subject to a discount of up to 10 percent.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Peso . . .

From page B1

market strategist Jonathan Ravelas said.

"There's very limited appreciation after this because there are still uncertainties, so we may see some pullback, but this pullback will be limited to 52.95-53:\$1," Ravelas said.

Currency traders said that across the region, many analysts were starting to bet that emerging markets in Asia would be able to lure back investors who were earlier distracted by the interest rate increases in the United States.

The higher bond yield in New York as influenced by the series of increases in the US Federal Reserve's overnight rates from 1 to 5.25 percent over the last 17 meetings has lured more global investors back to dollar-denominated assets, causing the shift in risk appetite away from emerging markets like the Philippines.

In response, many central banks have similarly raised their interest rates to make local assets more attractive. While the BSP has not ruled out a rate increase later this year, its outlook was that inflation would slow down starting the second semester.

"The BSP's overnight rates are aligned to inflation-targeting. Inflation looks contained so there's no reason unless there's too much pressure on the currency and so far the pressure is manageable," ING Bank Philippines treasurer Consuelo Garcia said.

"Right now, they have successfully managed to justify why they shouldn't (rush into following the Fed's moves)," she said.

By the end of the year, Garcia said the US Fed would likely start reversing the tight monetary policy seen over the last two years.

"Therefore, the pressure on local interest rates will ease over the long term," she said.

Philippine Stock Exchange

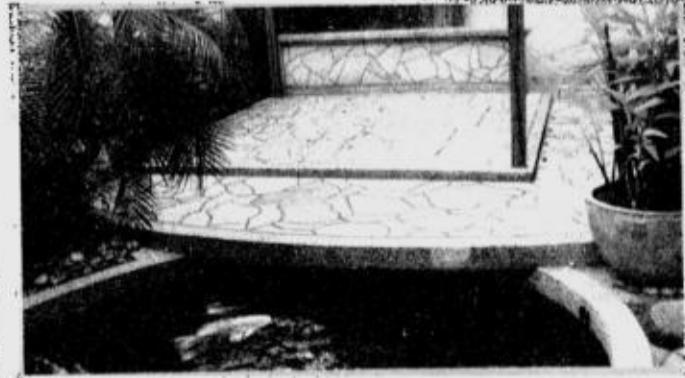
(As of July 7, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
AsiaTrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.7	6	5.7	5.7	59,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	32	31.5	31.5	2,026,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.5	51.5	50.5	51	600
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	2,400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	74.5	74	74	74	600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36	36	35.5	35.5	264,000
Philippine National Bank	33	33	33	33	2,400
Phil. Savings Bank	38.5	39	38.5	39	400
Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	18.5	19.5	18.5	19.25	178,900
Security Bank Corp.	47	47.5	47	47	45,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	44	44	44	45	7,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31	31	31	31	10,000
Manila Financial Corp.	1640	1660	1640	1660	390
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	0.98	0.98	0.98	120,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	210	210	210	210	22,700
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2030	2030	2030	2030	110
Ivanhoe Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.24	1.24	831,000
INDUSTRIAL					
First Gen Corp.	43	43.5	43	43.5	571,700
First Phil Holdings Corp.	45	46	45	45.5	1,538,000
Manila Electric Co. "A"	14.75	15.25	14.75	15.25	60,300
Manila Electric Co. "B"	22.5	23.5	22.5	23.5	2,988,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.7	1,442,000
Petron Corp.	0.95	0.97	0.95	0.95	3,135,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	3	3	2.5	2.5	2,390,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	7,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3,000
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	23	23.5	23	23.5	506,300
Ginera San Miguel Inc.	32	32.5	32	32.5	812,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	900,000
Panlak House Inc.	3.05	3.15	3	3.1	925,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	64.5	65.5	64.5	65.5	88,400
San Miguel Corp. "A"	71	71.5	71	71	291,800
San Miguel Corp. "B"	10.25	10.25	10	10	164,700
Phil. Tel Fiber C & Redy.	18.25	18.5	18	18.5	785,800
Universal Robina Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	890,000
Vitarich Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	216,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	600,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	3,177,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	57,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.6	1,750,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	216,000
CHEMICALS					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	30,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0925	0.0975			

PROPERTY



BECAUSE OF their durability, Solnhofener limestone tiles can be used as floorings, on walkways and even as walls.



SOLNHOFENER limestone tiles' easy-to-clean and slip-resistant surface make it an ideal material for garden ponds and pool sides.



THE TILES come in several neutral colors including shades of gray, brown and golden yellow.

Unique stone material for special home projects

By Charles E. Buban

FOR HOME BUILDERS, DESIGNERS and architects, Germany is known for being the source of one of the world's most famous natural stones, the Solnhofener limestone tiles.

This type of limestone, found and quarried only in the southern part of Germany, is known for its extreme hardness, uniqueness of colors and appearance as well as timeless elegance.

"Because they possess exemplary properties suitable for construction (abrasion resistance, thermal resistance and nonslip, among others), Solnhofener limestone tiles offer numerous design ideas for outdoor and indoor application. The fact that their natural beauty harmonizes in any kind of landscaping, they can be combined to almost any building materials," said Rod Garde of Neo Bath Inc., sole distributor

of the tiles in the Philippines.

Neo Bath delivers the tiles per crates which cover between 134 and 150 square meters space (cost P1,500 per sq m) and comes in flat slabs, which could be broken into much smaller pieces or patterns depending on the customer's preference.

Widely used

"Elsewhere in the world, Solnhofener limestone tiles are extensively used in up-market city apartments, country houses, ancient or new buildings, as well as clubhouses, pool areas, patios, terraces, gazebos and court yards. Because they have colors that are consistent throughout the surface, have colors that do not fade, hard-wearing and easy to maintain, they could be used in a variety of applications," Garde said.

He added that the appeal of Solnhofener limestone

tiles are quite different from marble, granites and other stone materials popularly used in the country.

In fact, Garde said Neo Bath has several design suggestions and applications that could be viewed in two of their showrooms located in Mandaluyong City (Ortigas Home Depot) and Taguig City (MC Home Depot, The Fort). The showrooms also provide design consultations.

"It took nature 150 million years to develop this unique building material, and the fact that it is being used for over 2,000 years elsewhere in the world, I believe it's about time we Filipinos discover the beauty that Solnhofener limestone tiles could bring to our homes," Garde said.

THE TILES' unique pattern, color and texture may be paired with other materials like stones or granite.

Rise above it all...by the bay

The daily stress of Makati's fast-paced lifestyle and making big business decisions can weigh heavily on your shoulders. An entire day can leave you tied down and too exhausted to even enjoy your successes. The only way to recharge at day's end is to elevate yourself above the fray.

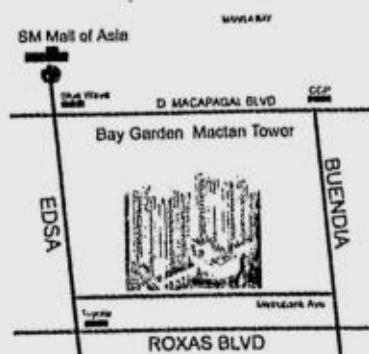
At Mactan Tower, coming home is a cloud nine experience. Throw your cares to the wind and indulge yourself in world-class amenities. Step up to a higher level of entertainment with the exciting establishments around you, such as the Mall of Asia, Blue Wave, and Malate Circle. Though it is a different world altogether, Mactan Tower is a mere half an hour's drive from the hustle and bustle of your Makati office.

Spectacular living is just within your reach at Mactan Tower. Sky's the limit with new lightweight payment terms and exciting deals. Go for a walk in the clouds and experience the bayside lifestyle by checking out our available units now. Call 551-0888 to see what's waiting for you by the bay.

MACTAN TOWER
at
BAY GARDEN
FEDERALAND

For announcement purposes only.

MACTAN TOWER
Come home to the bay



PROPERTY

The Greening of affordable housing

ECOLOGICAL HOUSING, SUSTAINABLE design, and green development. No matter how one calls it, they all mean the same thing—environment-friendly or green housing.

A green home is primarily a healthy home. It uses materials and resources efficiently, reduces waste, lessens pollution, provides superior indoor air quality, plenty of natural light and causes less damage to the environment. These are features that ideally should be found in our homes. Unfortunately, many of our homes are not green.

This is particularly the case with many of the affordable or low-cost homes in the country. As the cost of land appreciates and as many developers cut costs, many of these homes end up with substandard quality that affects not only the environment, but also the health of the occupants.

Much reduced sizes of units

Batas Pambansa 220 on Socialized Housing stipulates a minimum lot area of 32 square meters for a row house, 54 sq m for a duplex and 64 sq m for a single-detached unit. The minimum floor area for all types is 18 sq m.

Cost of construction has unfortunately caused the decrease in size of low-cost houses over time. This poses a challenge to developers and designers to make this type of dwelling within human standards.

Site selection

Green affordable housing developments are located in sites that are suitable for development. They are not found in sites that have very steep slopes, unstable foundations, erosion-prone areas and sites near power lines and transformers.

Green affordable housing developments are built in areas that have access to utilities, public transportation, workplaces, schools, commercial centers and other community services.

Green site development

Green development for affordable housing minimizes cutting and filling which unnecessarily alters the natural

landscape.

One example of environmental destruction is when the development crews mobilize and scrape the land. Fertile topsoil originally found at the site is discarded instead of being set aside and used as ground cover later on. Discarded fertile topsoil is hauled with construction debris, and dumped in some distant overflowing landfill or dumpsite.

The topsoil that has been removed and discarded will eventually be replaced by expensive garden soil for equally expensive and exotic plants to beautify the area. These plants are normally hard to maintain and require constant irrigation. This practice further depletes our limited water supply.

Another land development malpractice is when the natural communities of animals and plants in the area, and natural resources such as wetlands, woodlands, lakes, streams and trails are destroyed. Even regional culture and vernacular building styles that give the place character and a sense of place are cast aside.

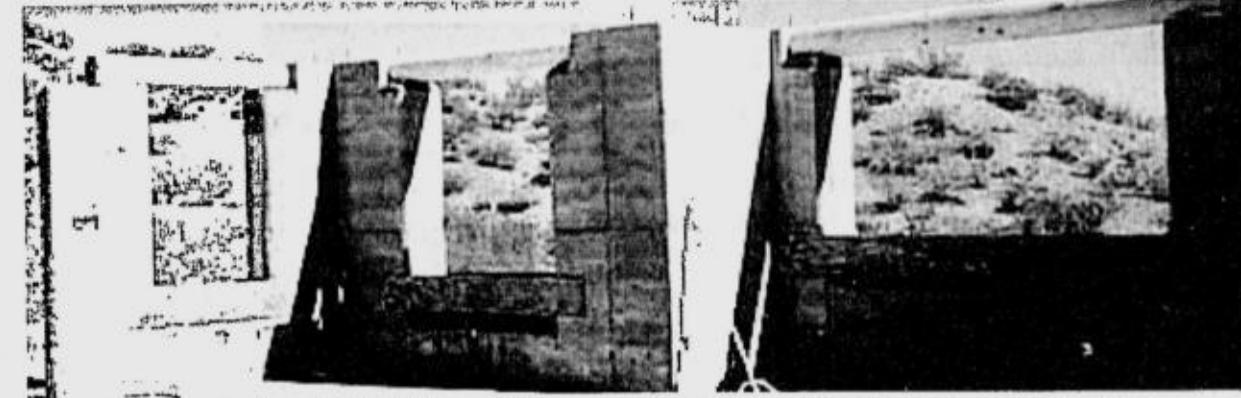
Green development espouses a "land ethic" which respects land, and does not deal with it as a commodity that we call "raw land" or "vacant lot." Restraint and careful planning in land development will reduce if not eliminate environmental destruction.

Big industry

The low-cost or affordable housing industry is big business. Many developers have been financially successful in tapping this growing business sector but despite the huge number of housing units turned over each year, private and government agencies cannot keep up with the demand.

According to the country's development plan, the need for housing in the country is estimated to reach 3.75 million units by 2010. Demand for new houses for the said period is 2.6 million of the total while housing backlog accounts for almost a million.

The challenge of meeting our country's housing needs should motivate many de-



RAMMED earth walls, about 12-inch thick, are built by compacting a slightly moist earth and aggregate mix between formwork using mechanical/pneumatic rammers. About 5 percent cement is added to the mix. This increases the erosion resistance of the walls against driving rain.

PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.ADOBE-HOME.COM

velopers not only to make their housing units more efficient and affordable but also, more importantly to make them "green."

Green vs conventional housing

How do we rate the practices of many of our affordable housing projects in terms of sustainability?

Let's cite a few cases. First and foremost, the industry is caught up in the first-cost rather than life-cycle cost mentality. First-costs refer to the cost of the house and lot and life-cycle costs refer to the long-term benefits.

For example, when we factor in energy savings over time, or increased durability or occupants' satisfaction and comfort, green design features and materials become easier to justify. It would be ideal if life-cycle costs are considered in the industry today instead of focusing solely on first-costs to justify our projects.

Regarding design, many affordable housing units these days are "beautiful" when viewed outside but are uncomfortable and impractical inside. Much emphasis is given to architectural features that are imported from other countries. Examples are small windows, steep roofs that have no soffits (or vent slats at the roof eaves and ridge) to minimize heat build-up and false or real attic spaces. Result? The thermal comfort and satisfaction of occupants is sacrificed.

Most of these houses need air-conditioning. Proper orientation has not been followed and windows have no roof overhangs to prevent unwanted heat and rain to come in.

When housing units are completed, many are fitted with incandescent bulbs because they are cheaper than the more energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps that last longer and are brighter.

For condominiums that are not green, developers pass on the responsibility for saving energy to the owners or occupants instead of designing the building to be energy-efficient. With green buildings, such arguments are avoided because housing units are designed from the outset with low energy use in mind. Dependency on air-conditioning is also minimized because green buildings are naturally ventilated providing tenants with a healthier atmosphere that can save on health care costs.

Other green strategies

Other green features that may be incorporated in a green affordable home include the use of water-efficient toilet fixtures, rainwater collection system, landscaping appropriate to the climate, light-colored roofing and exterior walls.

A very challenging strategy for low-cost housing is the use of cheap indigenous materials like bamboo. With the country's huge land area, we can very well promote planting and use of bamboo. For housing

in areas near the sea where galvanized roofing easily gets corroded, green or landscaped roofs that insulate homes could be recommended. Housing in areas regularly hit by typhoons could use rammed earth for walls; they use only 5 percent cement. Rammed earth homes are cool in summer, warm in cold season.

But isn't building green expensive?

The cost of green building can decrease or increase depending on how simple or how sophisticated the green features incorporated in the home. For example, costs can be greatly reduced by using materials with recycled-content or adopting a modular type of construction. It is obviously important to spend time in up-front design to study various green alternatives that cut costs without sacrificing health benefits.

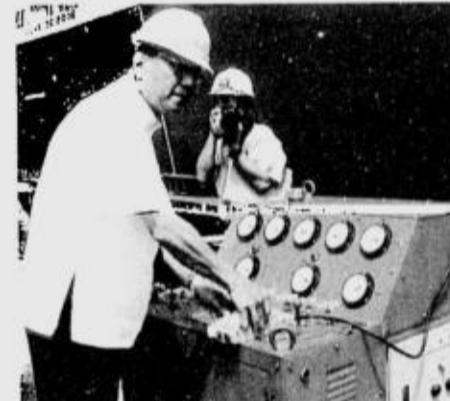
How to get started

Develop a project team that is motivated to build a green project. Include a multidisciplinary, integrated design process that considers environmental, social and health concerns into a cost-effective design.

Perform cost/benefit analyses on major project components. Lastly, occupants and maintenance staff must be knowledgeable as to how systems work and keep the project green.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

BCDA hails new bridge technology for SCTEx construction



BCDA president and CEO Narciso Abaya presses the start button of the hydraulic jack used to install the first gigantic pair of steel beams to the columns of the Pasig-Potrero Bridge being constructed in Pampanga.

lac will be less than an hour.

Flagship project

The SCTEx is a flagship project of President Macapagal Arroyo to create a dynamic economic corridor in Central Luzon and the BCDA is the lead implementing agency. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. of Japan is in charge of fabricating and installing the steel girders of the bridge.

The KOJM joint venture is the main contractor for SCTEx Package I (Subic-Clark Section). The Hazama-Tasei-Nippon Steel (HTN) joint venture, on the other hand, is the main contractor for SCTEx Package II (Clark-Tarlac section).

The landmark construction event was also witnessed by Second Secretary for Economic Affairs Koichi Sakai of the Embassy of Japan and local officials from Central Luzon.

The art of Bisazza

IN THIS DAY AND AGE WHEN competition is fierce, one has to continuously innovate to attract people's attention, and eventually get a big slice of the consumer market. Mediocre brands and the usual product offerings certainly do not work anymore.

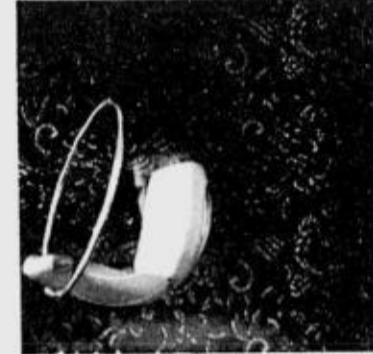
Companies should know that consumers have become smart in their choices and often demand an extensive range of revolutionary products that fulfill their promise to enhance physical beauty, provide better health, or make people's lives more comfortable and convenient in general.

Welcome event

This made the Philippine launch of Bisazza (pronounced as bi-sa-cha) such a welcome event in the country. Considered to be the world's leading producer of glass mosaic products, Bisazza is dubbed as the Rolls Royce of glass mosaic tiles.

One article in a foreign publication describes it best: "Bisazza is like Chanel. A maison de couture. It's a whole new world, not just fashion. It is daring and perfectionist, elegant without excess. It's like Coco Chanel herself. She always said that 'fashion passes, style remains.' And Bisazza has invented a style with its own materials. Not through dresses, but through glass mosaics. Like Chanel's apparel, which changed how women were seen and how they saw themselves, Bisazza has changed our attitude toward mosaics."

During the Philippine launch held recently, Bisazza's general manager Ric Vincent Atienza emphasized on the credibility of the company which was started in Alte, Vicenza, Italy in 1956 by Renato Bisazza with the serial pro-



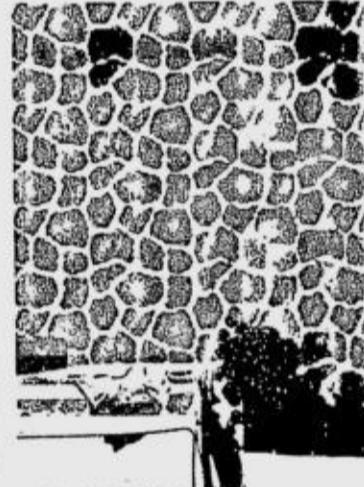
FINE Chines silk in mosaic

duction of vetrilavori. In 2004, Bisazza became widely recognized as a global luxury brand and joined the ranks of the elite Alttagamma (composed of a very few hand-picked Italian companies known for their high-quality products of international prestige and expression of the Italian style and culture throughout the world).

Today, it boasts of a thousand employees, five single-brand flagship showrooms (in Milan, Berlin, Moscow, New York and London) and four production centers. It also has 13 branch offices (in France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, Russia, Netherlands, Belgium, the United States, Australia, China, Hong Kong, India and the Philippines) and a network of over 7,000 distributors.

Finest glass mosaics

In the realm of Italian glass mosaic art, Bisazza has distinguished itself globally not only for producing the finest glass mosaics, but also for pioneering inventive and revolutionary applications for this ancient art form in



ANIMAL prints appeal to the senses.

the 21st century.

Ric Vincent G. Atienza welcomed over 300 of the country's most respected architects, interior designers, decorators, real estate developers, contractors and other guests who have simply fallen in love with the beauty of Bisazza.

Also present during the launch were beauty, wellness and lifestyle queen Cory Quirino, who shared with guests some insights on enhancing one's creativity while Cherry Lou wowed the guests with her power-packed performance. Lucky visitors also took home Luxor/Patrac Bisazza slab and almost everyone took advantage of the huge discounts given on selected Bisazza products.

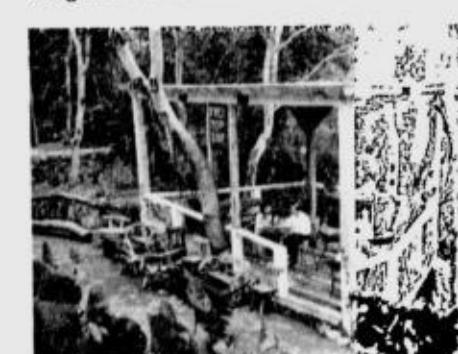
Bisazza, is, indeed, setting a new code of elegance for the contemporary Filipino home and will soon become the by-word in the walls and floor decorations market in the Philippines.

Bisazza glass tiles are distributed in leading home depots and tile dealers nationwide.

Mountain Woods: the ideal year-round retreat



MOUNTAIN Woods Resort Hotel is carefully integrated into its natural environs.



THE TREE-TOP Bar is a picturesque watering hole.

HIGH ACCESSIBILITY IS ONE OF THE major reasons Mountain Woods at Subic has become the weekend idyllic escape of choice by those seeking well-deserved breaks from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Now only less than two hours drive from the Balintawak Tollgate, Mountain Woods Resort Hotel, a refreshing mountain resort located at Kalayaan Heights, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, offers a sanctuary where one can rejuvenate and recharge from the stress of daily life, while offering the ideal venue for precious bonding moments with family and friends.

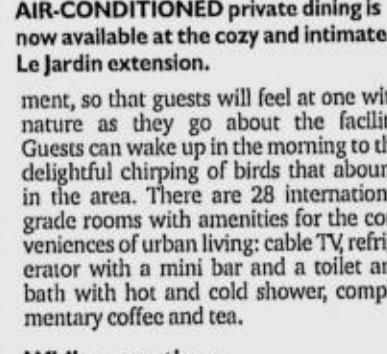
Forest, sea views

Here, guests will be welcomed by astounding forest and sea views overlooking serene Subic Bay. Perched on a cliff and surrounded by lush foliage where various indigenous fauna thrive, Mountain Woods offers a unique chance for guests to commune with nature, which affords them the peace and privacy they well deserve.

The resort's structures are also carefully integrated into the natural environ-



AIR-CONDITIONED private dining is now available at the cozy and intimate Le Jardin extension.



While away time

There are several activities to while away time when at the resort, including

fun times at the eternity pool and a kiddie pool which provides guests an awesome view of Subic Bay that extends into the mountains of Subic. Accommodations include free use of recreational facilities such as billiards and ping-pong so that kids and the young at heart can play to their hearts' content.

Excellent food and service can be expected at Le Jardin, the flagship dining outlet which boasts of an experienced and well-versed culinary team for discriminating guests, fresh green salad grown in the resort and a unique al-fresco ambience. Air-conditioned private dining is now available with the opening of the Le Jardin extension. A versatile pianist playing classical music among other things completes the whole dining experience with friends and loved ones.

There are several nooks and corners around the resort where guests will feel more intimate. A Gazebo has been set up for meditation, picnic and dining, or for those seeking some exclusivity. A picturesque Tree-top bar also serves as a watering hole where guests can unwind during the day and at night.

Spa services

A total retreat involves the ultimate in pampering and relaxation, which is why the resort offers quality spa services coming from the Wellness Center of White Rock, Mountain Woods' sister resort. Guests can avail of signature massages and body treatments enjoyed more in the serene mountain escape.

All these offerings, visitors will much more appreciate because a stay in Mountain Woods is unexpectedly very affordable based on current promo rates. An additional 20 percent discount is given for weekday "overnighters." There's even a 50 and 25 percent discount, respectively, from already very reasonable prices during happy hour (4-6 p.m.) on food and drinks. Group rates, and seminar/conferences at very competitive prices are available. There are two seminar rooms with capacities ranging from 20 to 150 participants.

From the Customs Gate (Tipos Road), Mountain Woods Resort Hotel's a mere five minutes away turning right after the first traffic light along Argonaut Highway.

Why oil prices remain high

PARIS—OIL PRICES, WHICH hit a record high point of \$75.40 a barrel in New York Wednesday, more than triple the level four years ago, are nailed to a peak by a combination of geopolitical and technical factors.

These are the main reasons for persistently high prices. While the spike on Wednesday arose from North Korean missile tests, the market is concerned more with Iran, the second-biggest producer within the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

Geopolitical concerns

Traders are worried about a long-term disruption of Iranian supplies in the event of international sanctions against Tehran over its nuclear research program, as a result of either a cut in output or a blockage of the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Added to that is a terrorist factor raised by the persistent threat from al-Qaida in oil producing Gulf states, and long-standing sources of tension such as conflict in Iraq and Nigeria.

Finally, other major producing countries like Venezuela, Chad and Russia are said to be in an "uncomfortable" situation and thus not necessarily able to compensate for potential output shortfalls elsewhere.

Production problems

Oil producers are having difficulty in keeping up with increasing demand.

Most producing countries are pumping at full capacity and only Saudi Arabia has real spare capacity.

Its spare production cushion is considered to be small and is in the form of heavy crude that is difficult to refine.

The lack of leeway in the event of trouble in a major producing country is a major source of concern for many market players.

In general however, production problems in the past few years have been taken to heart by both producer countries, which are slowly increasing in-

vestments, and by consumer countries which have rebuilt strategic stocks.

Experts nonetheless believe this factor could maintain tension in oil markets for three or four more years.

Oil analysts and Opec had already underscored the issue, and hurricanes last year in the United States focused attention on weaknesses in the refining sector, which has become a serious bottleneck.

Lack of refineries

No refineries have been built in Europe and the United States for 30 years and existing facilities often require major repairs.

In addition, some refineries cannot handle heavy crude, which is all producers can offer on top of their current output.

A lack of refined products such as gasoline (petrol) and heating or diesel fuels has contributed to higher crude oil prices.

In the United States, this last factor is now aggravated by new environmental standards, by fears of shortages during the summer "driving season" when cars are widely used for vacations, and by the fresh threat of hurricanes to US oil infrastructure.

Almost simultaneous rebounds by economies worldwide in the past three years has led to a surge in oil consumption, particularly in China and the United States.

Economies worldwide are expected to expand by another 5.0 percent in both 2006 and 2007, according to the International Monetary Fund.

The International Energy Agency forecasts global demand will grow by 1.5 percent in 2006 to 84.9 million barrels per day.

Investment funds have diversified their portfolios over the past few months and have favored holdings in raw materials, oil in particular.

Some experts say market speculation amplifies oil price increases but is not the main cause.

AFP

Crude oil prices dip below \$75 on US stock build, inflation risk

Market concerns over supply constraints in Iran, Nigeria linger

TOKYO—OIL FELL BELOW \$75 A BARREL on Friday on an unexpected increase in domestic US gasoline supplies, breaking the momentum of a run to record highs earlier this week.

Traders were now waiting for US jobs data later on Friday, concerned that the risk of inflation could affect energy demand.

US crude ticked lower by 30 cents to \$74.84 a barrel yesterday afternoon.

It had settled 5 cents down on Thursday, trimming a \$6 rally that ran from late-June to a record \$75.40 struck on Wednesday. London Brent crude eased 16 cents to \$73.92.

Gasoline stocks in the United States, the world's largest oil consumer, rose 700,000 barrels last week, US government data showed on Thursday. That was counter to analysts' forecasts for a drop.

The market had targeted a fresh record high, guessing the US inventory data would show bullish figures, but that was betrayed by

a gasoline stock build," said Keith Sano, the manager at commodities business unit at Sumitomo Corp. in Tokyo.

"Most likely, the market will sink as traders will try to lock in profit at the \$75 level ahead of the weekend."

The latest auto fuel stock level was still down 3.1 million barrels in year-on-year terms, and traders said strong US demand would give long-term support to the market.

The government data showed US gasoline demand increased 1.4 percent over the four weeks to June 30 from a year earlier.

The number of drivers was forecast to have risen to a record during the July 4th Independence Day holiday.

Support also came from lingering concerns over supplies from key oil exporter Iran amid its nuclear row with the West, and a partial loss of Nigerian oil output.

In eighth-ranked exporter Nigeria, where

some oil production has already been lost due to militant attacks, gunmen abducted a Dutch man who was working on an unfinished Shell plant.

Iran, the world's fourth largest exporter, failed to reply on Thursday to major powers' proposals aimed at defusing the dispute over its nuclear programme.

Ali Larijani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, told reporters he would give a preliminary response next week.

Traders said risks of inflation, which could dampen global oil demand, also had to be kept in mind. Strong private sector job data on Wednesday led economists to revise up their forecasts for Friday's US job figures.

That in turn boosted speculation that the United States could continue its two-year monetary tightening cycle and lift rates from 5.25 percent next month.

Reuters

SHOCKING
豐極震撼 雙效濃密睫毛液



PEOPLE walk past a large advertising display board in Hong Kong. A record \$71 billion was spent on advertisements in the Asia Pacific region in the first three months, with China dominating the market, a report said Tuesday.

AFP

Japan raises GDP view, backing rate views

TOKYO—JAPAN'S GOVERNMENT RAISED its projections for annual economic growth on Friday, further cementing expectations that the Bank of Japan will raise interest rates next week for the first time in six years.

The revision could pave the way for the government to declare an end to Japan's long era of deflation, and may make central bank board members more comfortable about raising the key overnight interest rate from the current level of zero.

The Cabinet Office now expects gross domestic product to expand by 2.1 percent in real terms in the fiscal year to next March, up from its current forecast of 1.9 percent, according to a document from the office obtained by Reuters.

Economy Minister Kaoru Yosano told a news conference the government's top economic policy panel would be presented with the upgraded growth forecasts at a meeting

on Friday evening.

The Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy is scheduled to weigh a package of medium- and long-term economic policy goals, and will use the new figures in its deliberations.

Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki said at a separate news conference he believed the end of Japan's deflation was in sight.

But Tanigaki, who has opposed a BOJ rate hike, urged the central bank to consider the possible chilling impact of this week's North Korean missile launches on financial markets when it makes its rate decision.

Japan's economy has been recovering solidly on the back of firm capital spending and personal consumption, and looks set to post its longest postwar expansion.

A majority of analysts and traders expect the BOJ to raise the rate by a quarter point at its next policy-setting board meeting on July 13-14.

Consumer prices have been rising since November after more than seven years of decline.

The Cabinet Office now forecasts that nominal GDP will grow 2.2 percent in fiscal 2006/07, an upgrade from the government's current projection of 2.0 percent. Consumer prices are likely to rise 0.6 percent, compared with the current view of 0.5 percent.

The forecast for the GDP deflator was unchanged at plus 0.1 percent, according to the document.

Financial markets have largely priced in a BOJ rate hike next week, and showed little reaction to the upgraded projections.

Separately on Friday, the BOJ said it will toughen rules on financial transactions by its employees and require public disclosure of top officials' personal assets after a scandal involving Governor Toshihiko Fukui's personal investments.

Reuters

Asian stock marts up on US Fed pause talk

SINGAPORE—ASIAN STOCKS rose on Friday, taking their cue from Wall Street peers, after surprisingly weak US service industry data fueled speculation of an imminent pause in the Federal Reserve's two-year monetary tightening.

Japan's Nikkei rose 0.7 percent to 15,429.98 by midday, lifted by gains in semiconductor and auto makers and by a 2.8 percent jump in Japan Tobacco Inc. in line with US rivals after the Florida Supreme Court refused to reinstate a \$145 billion punitive damages award against cigarette makers.

Australian commodity stocks BHP Billiton Ltd. and Rio Tinto Ltd. rose on the back of a surge in metal and oil prices.

Copper on the London Metal Exchange was steady at around \$7,835 a ton after soaring to a one-month high on Thursday.

Analysts predicted more consolidation to beef up profits.

But gains in other sectors were capped by the firm oil prices, hovering near this week's record high of \$75.40 per barrel, and ahead of the US non-farm payrolls data.

The jobs data could determine the next course for the Fed after it raised its key rate last week for the 17th time in two years.

The dollar remained pressured against the euro after losing ground on Thursday following hawkish comments from European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet, hinting at a possible rate hike in August.

The dollar traded at \$1.2773 per euro, little changed from New York close, but near a one-month low struck on Wednesday. Against the Japanese currency, the dollar was steady at 115.16 yen.

The weak dollar kept spot gold close to a one-month high of

\$634.75 an ounce hit on Thursday.

Japanese government bonds ticked up across the maturity curve with lead futures rising from six-year lows following gains in US Treasuries after Thursday's service industry data.

The US Institute for Supply Management's non-manufacturing headline index fell to 57 in June, below economists' consensus forecast for 59 and May's reading of 60.1. The employment component fell to its lowest level since January.

The data led investors to lower their expectations of a robust jobs report for June due later in the day.

"If the US job data turns out to be weaker than expected, that would reinforce expectations of a slowdown in the US economy," said Naomi Hasegawa, senior strategist at Mitsubishi UFJ Securities.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year US Treasury was little changed after falling to 5.185 percent on Thursday after the services data.

The yield on the 10-year Japanese government bond fell to 1.960 percent, from 1.975 percent the day before. The yield on the two-year JGB fell to 0.890 percent, from 0.900 percent.

A sales warning from Advanced Micro Devices Inc did not have any impact on Asian chip stocks. South Korea's top chip maker Samsung Electronics rose 1 percent, pushing up the country's benchmark KOSPI by 1.1 percent.

Japan's Advantest Corp. gained 1.7 percent and Tokyo Electron added 2 percent.

MSCI's key index for the top Asian companies outside of Japan rose 0.3 percent.

Reuters

GM chief to fight bid to link with Renault

DETROIT—JUST AS GENERAL MOTORS Corp. chair and chief executive Rick Wagoner's turnaround plan is starting to take hold, analysts say he now has to fight to keep it going and perhaps save his career.

The battle begins on Friday when GM's board meets via teleconference to discuss a plan from dissident shareholder and billionaire Kirk Kerkorian that would link GM with Renault SA of France and Nissan Motor Co. of Japan.

If Kerkorian, who has been unhappy with the pace of change at GM, can convince some big investors of the plan's merits, Wagoner could be ousted and replaced by Carlos Ghosn, chief executive of both Renault and Nissan who revived Nissan from near death.

Although GM officially says it will study the proposal from Kerkorian's Tracinda Corp. and judge it objectively, industry analysts and dealers who know Wagoner say he probably is building a coalition to fight Kerkorian.

"He's a coach type of guy. He's very much a team player," said David Cole, chair of the Center for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor, of Wagoner. "How he's operated in the past, it's less focused on Rick and more focused on what's right for the company."

What's right for GM, Cole said, is to continue in the direction Wagoner has set, with significant expense cuts and upcoming new products that have potential, including a hybrid large SUV to be unveiled



CARLOS GHOSN, CEO OF NISSAN AND RENAULT, AND INVESTOR KIRK KERKORIAN HAVE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF RENAULT AND NISSAN BUYING A MINORITY STAKE IN GENERAL MOTORS.

next year that gets up to 9.4 liters per 100 kilometers of gasoline.

Wagoner received a vote of confidence from the board in April. GM officials say it's unlikely that the board would take any action on the Tracinda deal in the Friday meeting.

But Stephen Mader, vice chair of Christian & Timbers, a New York-based executive search firm, said GM needs Ghosn's leadership style and personality more than a team approach led by Wagoner, who has been with GM since 1977.

Kerkorian, Cole said, wants GM to change

more quickly, and Ghosn clearly is capable of leading quick change.

But the transition to join three companies with vastly different cultures would take far longer than letting Wagoner's plan work its way out, Cole said.

"You put three companies together, it's not going to happen fast," he said. "The economies that come with combinations really take a long, long time."

GM has suffered from declining profits, high labor costs and growing competition from Asian automakers.

AP

Revenue officials to soften VAT cap impact on businesses

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE will issue a regulation that will further ease the adverse impact of the 70-percent VAT cap on the income of businesses.

A revenue official said that the BIR continues to receive complaints from businesses against the imposition of the VAT cap, as well as suggestions on how to liberalize the interpretation of the VAT Reform Law.

"The cap is really unfriendly to busi-

ness," the revenue official said. "But the problem is that they (business owners) did not lobby enough against it when the VAT bill was still being deliberated in Congress."

According to the official, the BIR is now seeking ways to further temper the impact of the VAT cap on the revenues of businesses. A revenue regulation that will serve this purpose is already in the works, the official said.

Under the 70-percent VAT cap provi-

sion of the VAT law, the maximum amount of input value-added tax credits that any business may claim in a given tax period is only equivalent to 70 percent of its output VAT.

The input VAT is the amount of value-added tax shouldered by a firm every time it purchases goods or products that already include the 12-percent VAT in the price. Output VAT is the gross VAT liability of a firm computed as 12 percent of its gross sales.

The business community, led by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has strongly opposed the imposition of a limit on the amount of input VAT credits that any taxpayer may claim. The group said this provision of the VAT law was unjust, given that the government should give businesses what is due them.

The imposition of the VAT cap was meant to plug revenue losses resulting from the abuse of the credit system.

Congress particularly was persuaded to

adopt the capping system after it was reported that some companies from the telecommunications sector had claimed input VAT credits that were higher than their output VAT. Due to the huge amounts of input VAT credit claims, government was forced to give refunds to some firms instead of collecting VAT from them.

But even officials from the Department of Finance have admitted that the 70-percent VAT cap has been taking its toll even on honest taxpayers.

IT, BPO firms set to tap rich European markets

SEC exceeds income target for first half

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission (SEC) said it had exceeded its target income for the first six months, fetching about P386.4 million largely from filing fees, a report from the regulator's financial department showed.

SEC's target for the six months from January to June was P268 million.

The total income includes "retention income" of P50 million which, under the Securities Regulation Code, is part of the corporate watchdog's earnings that it can keep and utilize over its annual budget for operations.

Excluding retention income, total income stood at P336.4 million for the first half.

The largest contributor to income was registration and filing fees, which reached P299.8 million.

Fines and penalties amounted to P40.3 million, while license fees from brokers, dealers and salesmen hit P18.3 million. Miscellaneous income was P27.9 million.

The SEC was established in October 1936 by virtue of Commonwealth Act No. 83 or the Securities Act.

Operations began in November 1936. Its major functions included registration of securities, analysis of registered security, evaluation of the financial condition and operations of applicants for security issue, screening of applications for broker's or dealer's license, and supervision of stock and bond brokers, as well as the stock exchanges.

The agency was abolished during the Japanese occupation and was replaced with the Philippine Executive Commission.

It was reactivated in 1947 with the restoration of the Commonwealth Government.

Due to the changes in the business environment under former President Ferdinand Marcos, the agency was reorganized in September 1975 as a collegial body with three commissioners and was given quasi-judicial powers under a presidential decree.

In 1981, the commission was expanded to include two more commissioners and two departments, one for prosecution and enforcement and the other for supervision and monitoring.

In 2000, the SEC was reorganized as mandated by Republic Act No. 8799 also known as the Securities Regulation Code.

RP mission tailor fits strategy according to EU requirements

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL FIRMS ENGAGED IN INFORMATION technology and business process outsourcing are embarking on a precision campaign to tap Western Europe's fast growing markets, which makes up a fifth of the global market that is projected to reach \$310 billion in revenue over the next three years.

Trade Assistant Secretary Fe Agoncillo-Reyes said that the government is helping companies in sending a mission to the region. The mission will include a business forum, business meetings with potential clients, and high-level networking reception.

"The Philippines will adopt a country-by-country strategy that will fit the service requirements of each (market)," said Reyes, who is also executive director of the trade department's Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions.

Citing data from PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Reyes said that the United Kingdom is still Europe's dominant market. But she added that outsourcing is gaining ground in Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and France.

"The continuing pressure on time to market and cost bases are driving European companies to look at offshore outsourcing as a strategic alter-

native," Reyes said.

She said financial services sector is the largest consumer of BPO and IT-enabled services in Europe, followed by utilities and telecommunications, while human resources, finance and accounting were also showing notable growth.

"The trade mission is part of our ongoing promotion of the Philippine ICT capabilities to the European market," Reyes said.

The business mission also aims to strengthen ties with the Philippines' counterpart organizations, such as the London Chamber of Commerce, National Outsourcing Association, International Association of Outsourcing Professionals in the UK; FENIT, The Agency for International Business and Cooperation (EVD), and CBI in Netherlands.

Reyes said the Philippines consistently ranks among the top attractive offshore location by various research firms, such as AT Kearney, Gartner, and META.

Also, the country is now the outsourcing location of some Dutch companies like Getronics, ING Group, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, and ABN-Amro.

British companies like Standard Chartered Bank, Sykes and Ambriegs Solutions have established outsourcing operations in the Philippines.

Oil firms begin gathering seismic data off Palawan

By Abigail L. Ho

SHELL PHILIPPINES EXPLORATION BV (Spex), Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Co. (Onshore) BV and South China Resources Inc. will start gathering 2D and 3D seismic data in the area covered by Service Contract 60, for which the firms have committed to invest at least \$24 million over the next seven years.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said that during a recent meeting with Spex officials, including some representatives from Royal Dutch Shell Plc, they said that they would proceed with the seismic work offshore Northeast Palawan.

Spex general manager for external affairs Facundo Roco said seismic work in the area would start this month.

The work entails an investment of

between \$3 million and \$5 million.

"By the third or fourth quarter of next year, we will be able to tell if there are oil and gas reserves in SC 60," Roco said.

Spex and its partners inked SC 60 with the Department of Energy just last January.

SC 60, which covers a relatively unexplored area of about 1,008,000 hectares, was formerly Geophysical Survey and Exploration Contract 99 or GSEC-99.

According to the DOE, it is one of the promising sites for petroleum exploration, as identified by the Philippine Petroleum Resource Assessment Project Study jointly conducted by the DOE and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

Under the contract, the consortium will conduct exploration work in the area over a seven-year period.

Gov't curbs non-essential borrowing

THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO impose a moratorium on undertaking so-called "non-essential borrowings" as it pursues efforts to trim down its close to \$4 trillion worth of debts.

"Non-essential borrowings" are loans offered by creditors to the Philippine government. These usually come in the form of official development assistance (ODA) that require borrowers to purchase goods and services needed for the ODA-funded projects from the country acting as the source of credit.

The proposal to do away with non-essential borrowings was part of the agenda of the Cabinet during its recent meeting in Malacañang.

According to the Department of Finance, limiting the government's borrowings to cover projects and programs that are included in its development agenda for a year was a prudent way to instill fiscal discipline and keep the debts from further growing.

In the past, there were a lot of "tied" ODA offers from various rich countries which the Philippine government accepted.

It was considered "tied" because it accompanied an agreement between

the creditor and the government that supplies needed for the ODA-funded projects should be sourced from the creditor-country.

Having succumbed to non-essential borrowings, the government was forced to conduct a major cleanup of its ODA portfolio in 2004 and 2005.

During the cleanup, the government had to cancel ODA projects that had already been approved.

Last year, the National Economic and Development Authority worked on the cancellation of several projects approved for financing by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), the Philippines' biggest source of ODA.

The projects included several infrastructure-related ones supposed to be undertaken by the Department of Public Works and Highways, and by the Department of Transportation and Communications, among others.

The borrowing problem was traced to the tendency of some government agencies to accept ODA offers from creditors even without an assurance that they would get sufficient funding from the national government.

To prevent such problems from recurring, government agencies are

now required to first secure a clearance—in the form of forward obligation authority (FOA)—from the Department of Budget and Management before they can accept ODA offers.

As of 2004, the national govern-

ment's outstanding debt to JBIC alone already stood at P475 billion.

But fiscal authorities said that the government has already been cau-

tious in approving ODA-funded pro-

jects and programs as it embarked on

a fiscal reform agenda since 2004.

The government's debts stood at

P3,962 trillion as of end-March this year.

The debts are composed of ODAs as well as commercial borrowings.

The debt figure continues to grow

because of the government's budget deficits, which forces it to conduct more borrowings.

But fiscal authorities said that once

the government hits the target of zero

deficit by 2008 and a budget surplus by 2009, then the debts would start to

grow again.

The government's budget deficit for 2005 stood at P146.8 billion. The Arroyo administration hopes to re-

duce it to only P125 billion this year.

Michelle V. Remo



HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION

IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL REPAYMENT PROGRAM

(As approved by HGC Board of Directors under Board Resolution No. 03-2006 dated February 20, 2006)

Cognizant of the economic difficulties presently encountered by buyers of HGC housing properties, the Board of Directors of the Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC), in its regular meeting held on February 20, 2006, approved the Special Repayment Program (SRP).¹ The following rules and regulations are hereby promulgated/issued for the guidance of all concerned.

I. COVERAGE

- 1.1 All buyers or successors-in-interest (BOSII) of HGC housing properties, except those on an account whose Certificate of Sale is already registered or is under redemption period or with a second alias writ issued.

II. CONDITIONS

- 1.1 A BOSII who already availed himself/herself of the Interest Repricing and Term Extension Program may avail himself/herself of this Special Repayment Program provided that all benefits from the Interest Repricing and Term Extension shall be waived.
- 1.2 The BOSII who assumed the loan must be willing to execute loan restructuring documents with HGC.

III. COMPUTATION OF TOTAL OUTSTANDING OBLIGATION AND RESTRUCTURED LOAN

- 1.1 The Total Outstanding Obligation as of application date shall be composed of the following:

- a. Outstanding Principal Loan Balance
- b. Unpaid Penalties (net of condoned penalties, if any)
- c. Unpaid Interests
- d. Unpaid Insurances
- e. Other Unpaid HGC advances
- f. Foreclosure expenses, if any

- 1.2 The restructured loan under the Special Repayment Program shall be composed of two parts, namely:

- 1.2.1 Net Interest-bearing portion: equivalent to 130% of the original loan amount, net of the downpayment.
- 1.2.2 Non-Interest bearing portion: the total outstanding obligation less condoned penalty, if any, minus the interest-bearing portion referred to in 1.2.1, unpaid insurance fees and other advances. Interest-bearing portion is defined as Net interest-bearing portion plus downpayment.²

IV. DOWNPAYMENT

To assure that the BOSII shall have a stake in the restructuring process, he/she shall pay a minimum downpayment equivalent to at least ten percent (10%) of the interest bearing portion of the restructured loan plus unpaid insurance premiums, taxes and legal expenses, if any.

The downpayment may be amortized over the first two (2) years without interest. The unpaid MRI, fire insurance premiums and realty taxes advanced by the Corporation shall be amortized over the revised repayment term without interest. All foreclosure and litigation expenses, if any, shall be paid in full upon approval of the application.

In addition to the required downpayment, the BOSII shall pay the processing fee equivalent to 1% of the total restructured loan or P1,000.00 whichever is lower.

V. CONDONABLE PENALTIES

If the BOSII is eligible to avail himself/herself of the benefits under RA-8501 of March 8, 1998, the penalties due on the loan shall be condoned under the guidelines implementing the said Housing Loan and Condonation Act of 1998. In case the BOSII already availed himself/herself of any of the Penalty Condonation Programs of the Corporation, the said BOSII may still be eligible for this program but without the benefit of penalty condonation anymore.

VI. TERMS OF THE RESTRUCTURED LOAN

- 1.1 The restructured interest-bearing portion shall have a maximum repayment period of fifteen (15) years or the remaining term of the original loan, whichever is longer, bearing the original interest rate plus applicable insurance premiums for Mortgage Redemption Insurance (MRI) and Fire Insurance.

- 1.2 The non-interest bearing portion shall be amortized in equal monthly payments after the lapse or full settlement of the interest bearing portion for a maximum period of 5 years, provided the monthly scheduled payment shall not be less than the monthly amortization of the interest bearing portion.

However, should the buyer reach 65 years old before the end of the term of the restructured loan, the BOSII may assign a co-borrower up to the first degree of consanguinity with age not more than sixty five (65) years old at the end of the term.

VII. INSURANCES

The BOSII shall be required to obtain insurance coverage for:

- 1.1 Mortgage Redemption Insurance (MRI) – BOSII shall be covered by MRI based on the total restructured loan upon approval of the HDMF YRT Insurance Pool or other insurers as may be designated by HGC. The Billing and Collection Division shall effect the necessary adjustments. They shall fill in and submit a Medical Questionnaire to be provided by HGC.

- 1.2 Fire and Allied Perils Insurance (FAPI) – the existing coverage on the mortgage property shall remain the same, unless the BOSII opts to increase it. In such a case, the BOSII may secure additional FAPI coverage from other insurers aside from GSIS, the insurer of HGC.

- 1.3 Premium Payments – the premium due on MRI and FAPI may be paid annually or may be incorporated in the monthly amortization of

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

**SALES
ENGINEER (2)**

- Industrial or Mechanical Engineer Graduate
- Single, 27-38 yrs old; w/ experience in feedmilling and technical process; willing to travel
- Good communication / negotiation skills, hardworking
- Proactive, analytical, & computer literate

Interested applicants must bring their Transcript of Records, comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture at:

CHIATUNG PHILS., INC.

Unit 174 - 17/F The Columbia Tower,
Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City

Email add:
recruitment_sil@yahoo.com.ph
Pis. look for Ms. Cora

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A New Company specializing in
Media and Advertising

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

- Must be a Certified Public Accountant
- At least 5 yrs supervisory experience

EDITION TECHNICIANS

- Knowledgeable in professional video editing software
- Communication Arts, I.T. or Advertising graduate
- Male, not more than 30 yrs old

MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

- 2-3 yrs experience in equipment installation & maintenance
- Male, Mechanical or Engineering graduate

CREATIVE MEDIA PLANNER

- Creative, ability to sequence various videos professionally
- Female, Mass Communication or Advertising graduate
- Good command of verbal & written English
- Fresh Graduates may apply

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- Male/Female, 1-2 yrs experience
- Marketing, Mass Communication, Advertising graduate or related course

Submit your resume w/ 2x2 photo, Transcript of Records, Employment Certificates & NBI Clearance

Unit 174 - 17/F Columbia Tower,
Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City

Email: recruitment_sil@yahoo.com.ph
Pis. look for Ms. Cora

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of Republic Act 9046, a Notice is hereby served to the public that PAULETTE L. GOLEZ has filed with this Office a Petition For Change of First Name from PAULITA to PAULETTE in the Certificate of Live Birth of PAULITA DIAZ LLORICO bearing Registry No. 2219 (k-70) who was born on NOVEMBER 21, 1970 at SAMPALOC, MANILA, PHLs. and whose parents are VICENTE ALBANA LLORICO and AMPARO DACUTAN DIAZ. Any person adversely affected by the said petition may file his/her written opposition at this office not later than

(Sgd.) TERESITA U. JACOMILLE
CITY CIVIL REGISTRAR

(PDI - July 8 & 15, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
City of Olongapo
- oOo -
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
General Services Office, 2/F City Hall Complex
Tel. / Fax No. 047-222-2869
Web: www.ongapogov.gov.ph
Email: Olongapo@pilot.net

28 June 2006

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Olongapo, through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites suppliers/ manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for the eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects:

- | | Qty/No. | Approved Budget of Items |
|---|---------|--------------------------|
| A. Procurement of Various Hospital Equipment | 1 | P 990,000.00 |
| 1. Laparoscopic TV Camera and Video System | 2 | 1,000,000.00 |
| 2. Electrosurgery Machine w/ Monopolar and Bipolar Modes | 1 | 1,250,000.00 |
| 3. Cholecystotome | 1 | 1,580,000.00 |
| 4. Electromyelotome | 1 | 1,250,000.00 |
| 5. Video Tonsillectomy 10mm 30 Degrees (endocope) | 1 | 970,550.00 |
| 6. Rectosigmoidoscope with Cystoscope | 1 | 428,000.00 |
| 7. Flexible Ureteroscope Set (rigid) | 1 | 1,200,000.00 |
| 8. UES-40 Electrosurgery Machine for TUR in Sutina | 1 | 2,000,000.00 |
| 9. Anesthesia Machine | 1 | 2,000,000.00 |
| 10. Trocar and Hand Instrument for Lap | 1 | 875,000.00 |
| 11. Infant Incubator "Isolite" | 1 | 700,000.00 |
| 12. Autoclave Machine | 1 | 6,000,000.00 |
| 13. Operating Table | 2 | 3,000,000.00 |
| 14. EGD Machine | 1 | 1,200,000.00 |
| 15. Dermatograph (Pneumatic Type) | 1 | 1,020,000.00 |
| 16. Operating Microscope | 1 | 370,000.00 |
| 17. Procurement of Various Surgical Instruments (one lot) | 19 | 5,925,749.00 |
| C. Procurement of Various Operating Room Lights (one lot) | 4 | 2,205,000.00 |
| D. Procurement of CT Scan | 1 | 33,000,000.00 |
| E. Procurement of Mobile X-Ray Machine | 1 | 2,750,000.00 |

Contract No. OC-75 to 94-JLGMH-008 to 027-06

Location James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital

Source of Funding Development Bank of the Philippines Loan Financing

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project being bidding. The Eligibility Check / Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

DATE	ACTIVITIES	VENUE
June 29 to July 12, 2006	Posted at GEPS Website & Conspicuous Places/ Newspapers of Nationwide Circulation	
July 13 to July 19, 2006	Issuance of Bid Documents upon payment of non-refundable bid fee as per approved schedule of bid document fees (6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from the BAC Secretariat	BAC Secretariat 2/F Gen. Services Office, Olongapo City Hall
July 20, 2006	Pre-Bidding Conference at 3:00 p.m.	
August 3, 2006	Opening of Bids at 11:00 a.m.	
Aug. 4 to Aug. 11, 2006	Bid Evaluation and Post Qualification	
Aug. 14, 2006	Notice of Awards	

The BAC reserves the right to accept and reject any bid and to cancel all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the City Government without thereby incurring any liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and obligation to inform the bidder(s) of the ground(s) for the basis of BAC's action.

(Sgd.) MERLITO J. MAJARUCON
Head, BAC Secretariat

NOTED BY:
(Sgd.) Atty. ANGELITO R. OROZCO
BAC Chairman
(PDI - July 14 & 5, 2006)



PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE
PAWN BUY SELL
WATCHES
Jewelry & Diamonds
BEST APPRAISAL
Secondo Glorietta 1
Tel# 894-0282
Agencia de Makati
Tel# 889-7956

WHITE PLAINS LOTS
15% Downpayment
Up to 12 Years to pay
CALL NOW!
847-5113 to 17/0917-8479276



WE BUY
at HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
HIS & HER'S Watch Center
GoldCrest Bldg.
Glorietta-2
5646593 5697041
0917-8473744

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PROCUREMENT SERVICE



Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

TelFax: 633-93-43
Direct Line: 636-65-43; 636-65-42
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph
deped_procurementservice@ysincocomph

Call for Submission of Textbooks and Teacher's Manual

The Department of Education is inviting interested publishers to submit copies of camera-ready materials of their textbooks (TXs) and accompanying teacher's manuals (TMs) for Music, Arts, Physical Education and Health (MAPEH) for First to Fourth Year high school intended for use in public high schools under the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP).

This call does not constitute a pre-bid content evaluation. SEDIP intends to buy the best sets of materials that pass content evaluation with a reasonable price-offer for the royalty fee or copyright authorization fee to print and distribute to all its recipient schools nationwide.

All submitted materials will undergo an evaluation process in four levels:

- Level 1 to test completeness of coverage, organization, and internal consistency;
- Level 2 to check accuracy of facts and information, integrity of concepts, and sequence of learning concepts;
- Level 3 to test the appropriateness of the language and visuals used; and
- Level 4 to ensure correct grammar and syntax.

The ratings in the four (4) levels of content evaluation will be added and the three (3) titles with the highest aggregate rating will be considered for ranking. The ranks 1 to 3 titles will be recommended for negotiation for the royalty fee or copyright authorization fee that would allow SEDIP to print and distribute to all its recipient schools nationwide. Negotiation shall also ensure in case there is only one title that qualifies.

Publishers will pay an evaluation fee of forty thousand pesos (P40,000.00) each set of textbook and teacher's manual. The evaluation fees, which will be used to defray expenses for service fees, transportation, and board and lodging of evaluators, may be paid either in cash or manager's check addressed to DepED-IMCS Acct. No. LBP 0672-1027-66. Payments must be made at the DepED Cash Division, 1st Floor, Rizal Building II, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

The MAPEH TXs and TMs should be submitted to the DepED-Procurement Service (PS) at 5th Floor Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City starting July 31, 2006 but not later than August 4, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

In order to get a soft copy of the Learning Competencies and the Textbook Call Guidelines, bring a blank compact disk to the DepED-IMCS starting July 10, 2006. For more information, please contact Ms. Daisy Santos or Ms. Nonie Barraquias at 634-1054 or 631-9294.

For your information and guidance,

(Sgd.) Atty. CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA
Assistant Secretary and BAC Chairperson

OPEN HSE JULY 9

Commercial Area 1001 sqm
#107 Connecticut St.
Greenhills NE

Aldrin 0918-9392979

www.propertyprovidergroup.com

LEADERSHIP TURNOVER

The IAME and Associates Toastmasters Club, headed by its charter president Dr. Reynaldo A. Carpio, CTM, (president of Grand Monaco Estate Developers) had formally turnover the club administration to the incoming president Dr. Nerza A. Rebustes, CTM (division chief of Bureau of Customs-NAIA). Witnessing the turnover ceremony of the symbolic gavel are division head governor Dr. Renato G. Josef, ATM-G (medical services and benefits manager of ON Semiconductor) and VP-Education Dr. Voltaire R. Victoria, CTM (sales and business development manager of MEDICard Philippines), held recently at the International Academy of Management and Economics, Makati City.

OBITUARIES**NREA meet slated**

LEGISLATIVE BILLS proposing amendments to the respective laws which created four government housing agencies to strengthen their capacity to address the country's housing needs are among the highlights of the Mid-Year Business Meeting of the National Real Estate Association, Inc. (NREA), the one-stop trade organization, on July 31, (Mon.), 6 p.m. at Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita, chair of the Congressional Committee on Housing and Urban Development, and one of the principal authors of the four amending bills, will discuss their salient features proposing changes to the charters of the National Housing Authority (NHA), Housing & Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), Home Guaranty Corp. (HGC) and the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC), it was announced by engineer Raphael G. Baylon, NREA vice president and the event organizer.

The mid-year assembly will also give recognition to past and present members/officers of the Association, including the first four who received their academic degrees, as "Doctors of Philosophy," namely, architect Nathaniel von Einsiedel; former congressman Dante V. Liban; Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita; and engineer Reynaldo A. Carpio, Baylon added.

Assisting in the preparations are Andy Mañalac, professor Jun Garing, Marissa del Mar, Gilda Lim, Jesse Rebusillo, Veronica Lim, Yul Malicse, Ferdy Hernandez, Caloy Tumpalan, Jojo Tolentino, Lou Ferrer, Axel Aguirre, Flavio Calma, Henson Ama, Adel de Guzman, Ben Casimiro, Danny Santiago and Malou Doles.

OBITUARIES**Renato M. Mangubat**

On Thursday, 06 July 2006. Renato Mangubat of Dasmariñas, Cavite, loving husband, doting father and grandfather, passed away at the age of 70. Rene will be forever remembered by his wife, Long, his children and their spouses: Eileen & Gerro, Mia & Jojit, Ivi, Ronnie, Lala & Chiqui and his grandchildren, Kalel, Milky, Denise, Alex, Bea, Joaquin & Juami. Rene will be sorely missed by his relatives, extended family and dear friends.

Rene's wake will be held at their home in Dasmariñas, Cavite where daily masses will be offered. A burial mass will be celebrated at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church in Dasmariñas at 9 o'clock in the morning of Tuesday, 11 July 2006. His remains will then be put to rest at the Dasmariñas Municipal Cemetery.

Contacts: 046 4163469 .. Eileen 0917 8065941 .. Lala 0917 8424180

CORAZON PICO GOMEZ

Peacefully joined our Creator on July 6, 2006 at the age of 77.

She is survived by sister-in-law Lourdes; brother Leopoldo, nephews, nieces and grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, July 9, 2006, 12:30 PM at Paz Crematory.



In loving memory
on the
3rd Death Anniversary of
REMEDIOS "Mamsie" JOTA LARA

(May 3, 1927 - July 8, 2003)

Holy Masses will be offered today, July 8, 2006 at:

St. James the Great Parish Church 4:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Grace Parish Church 6:00 p.m.
Hearts of Jesus

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinoza@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Beat the high cost of cure with GSK's Value Health program

MILLIONS OF FILIPINOS ARE AFFLICTED with common ailments and medical conditions everyday. Now, Filipinos can stop suffering from such health problems and, even from the high cost of medicines.

GlaxoSmithKline, the international research-based pharmaceutical company, offers affordable yet high-quality and reliable medicine under the Value Health program. Essential antibiotics like co-trimoxazole and amoxicillin, cefaclor, erythromycin and cephalexin and other medication for common ailments such as Am-

brolex (ambroxol), Zantac75 (ranitidine), Calpol (paracetamol), the leading asthma brand of salbutamol, and rifampicin are made more affordable by as much as 34 percent under the ValueHealth program. Find immediate and affordable relief from frequent ailments such as coughs, hyperactivity, flu, asthma and bacterial infections.

Originally launched in 2004, Value Health is the only program by a multinational pharmaceutical company that offers significant price reduction for some of its original branded

medicines. Its products are made available with cost savings of up to 34 percent for patients, placing it among the most competitively priced medicines in the market.

With Value Health, patients get a lot of savings on their budget. No longer will the cost of medicines stop Filipinos from living a full and healthy life. Trusted, original, branded medicine from GlaxoSmithKline is now within reach with the Value Health seal of economy and quality.

Consult a doctor about GSK Value Health.



UE CONFRS DR. LU WITH DOCTORATE DEGREE

Commissioner Nenelyn Defensor of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) dons the academic cap on Lu Zhangong (center) upon his conferment of an honorary doctorate degree in the Humanities by the University of the East (UE) in Manila. Secretary of Fujian's Provincial Party Committee and chair of the Fujian Standing Com-

mittee of China's National People's Congress, Dr. Lu was in Manila recently to foster closer cultural and economic ties between Fujian and the Philippines. Also present during the conferment rites are (from left): UE president Dr. Ester Garcia; UE honorary chairman Dr. Lucio C. Tan; and UE chair and CEO PO Domingo.

CHILDHOOD TB IN THE PHILIPPINES

Papa, Pediatrica Inc's Defeat Childhood TB Movement and the DOH have all joined forces in putting up a TB diagnosis and treatment program for children to complement the government's current adult TB program. The program has been going on for more than a year now and has since been able to train and produce quality healthcare workers educated on the DOTS. With the efforts of these concerned groups in recognizing and putting focus on this deadly disease, eliminating childhood TB in the Philippines is not too far away. Seen in the picture is Papa president Dr. Jocelyn Franco gracing the end of project presentation in Pampanga.



UNILAB TURNS OVER DONATION FOR LEYTE VICTIMS

United Laboratories Inc (Unilab), the country's leading pharmaceutical company, recently turned over to ABS-CBN Sagip Kapamilya Foundation the donation of Unilab Employees for the ongoing relief operations for afflicted families in the recent Leyte flashflood. Unilab Employees Council (EC) spearheaded the donations campaign among Unilab employees that gathered assorted clothes, rice, canned goods, and other food items. Ven Agham (extreme left), executive director of Sagip Kapamilya Foundation received the donation from Unilab 33rd Employees Council (EC) chair Atoy Co (extreme right). With them are EC pre-



siding officers Noel Atable and Dale Baes. This initiative is consistent with Unilab's commitment to reach out to victims of national calamities by tapping on its available resources and on employees' spirit volunteerism.

MDH GETS NOD FROM DOT

Manila Doctors Hospital (MDH), Manila premiere's healthcare institution was recently accredited by the Department of Tourism (DOT), further enhancing its reputation as one of the top healthcare destinations in Manila. The ISO certified hospital has long enjoyed the patronage of foreigners, as well as balikbayans, who come to seek assistance with regard to health concerns. MDH is an ideal place not only because of its excellent doctors and world class service but also due to the amenities of the surrounding area provides. MDH is easily accessible via Roxas Blvd. from the airport. Right beside MDH is a hotel, just one of the thirty hotel establishments, wherein a visitor can stay. Several food estab-



lishments, from fast food to fine dining, are within reach. A huge shopping mall, located a block away may provide transients with a place to shop for personal needs or watch a movie. The US Embassy is also located just down UN Avenue. Photo shows, MDH president Aniceto M. Sobrepresa, receiving the plaque from DOT Assistant Secretary Eduardo Jarque, Jr. With them are, from left, Dr. Rex M. Mendoza, OIC and administrative director and Dr. Dante Morales, medical director.

SUPERFERRY EXPANDS DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

SuperFerry recently partnered with fast-moving corporation, JC Spice, to become one of the many household names linked with the multi-level company to serve a targeted market. JC Spice, with its 80,000-strong members nationwide, is now entitled to sell SuperFerry tickets, corroborating the leading shipping company's availability and accessibility. SuperFerry tickets are also available through its over 300 branches nationwide, through E-ticket (www.superferry.com.ph) and through the hotline, 528-7000. Apart from expanding its distribution network, SuperFerry partnered with JC Spice to highlight its biggest travel bargain of the year, the



Mega Tipid Trip Promo, which slashes rates up to 50 percent. Shown in photo are, from left: VP for channels Sharryn Jacobson; APP for Sales and marketing Andrew Deylo; JC Spice president and CEO Joey Castro; business development director Dina Castro and treasurer Julie Rose Defensor.

SIFE CHAMPION

Dr. Ramon Ricardo Roque, Caso I, Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives was recently recognized as Champion of Students in Free Enterprise (Sife) Philippines, an honor given to individuals who made significant contributions towards the realization of Sife's mission of providing college and university students the best opportunity to make a difference and to develop leadership, teamwork and communication skills through learning, practicing and teaching the principles of free enterprise. Dr. Roque was recognized for his exemplary dedication to Sife Philippines and for creating sustainability to the organization as chair of its national board of directors. Sife Philippines president Dr. Robert Galindez, Sife Asia Regional vice president and man-

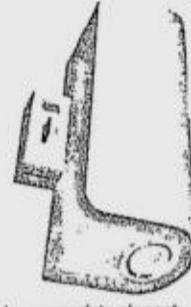


aging director Dennis Lee and Sife world program director Morgan Cleverne presented the award to Dr. Roque during the 2006 Unilever-Sife Philippines National Exposition held at Bayview Park Hotel. The Sife team from the Mariano Marcos State University won the grand prize in the National Exposition and earned the right to represent the Philippines in the 2006 Sife World Cup to be held this September in Paris, France.

Product FILES

Edifier i-F330: The perfect iPod speaker

GEAR UP TO A WHOLE NEW AUDIO EXPERIENCE with Edifier i-F330. It's the latest in Edifier's line of high performance speakers meant for portable listening. Certified and specially designed for a wide range of iPod models. The speaker is perfect for 21st century nomads who doesn't want to miss out on amazing audio. The battery compartment, which uses 6 AA batteries, can last for 45 blissful hours. Don't be fooled by the sleek minimalist look as this newbie belts out beautiful highs with rich mid-range and bass. It comes out clear and pure in this foldable entertainment gadget that you can carry anywhere you want. Handling is easy as it comes with a custom-made pouch bag. iPod obsessed individuals who appreciate elegant looks with high quality sound would be happy to know that i-F330 has a built in iPod docking that also recharges the iPod and Has Video Output support for iPod Video. Bundled with Neodymium driver, Natural Bass technology for enhanced bass, Class D amplifier, and additional 3.5mm stereo input for other audio sources, i-F330 is equipped with all the essentials. The Edifier i-F330 is available at all major dealers. It is locally distributed by Banbros Commercial Inc. For details, call 727-3009 or visit www.banbros.ph.



Toto expands its Nexus Bath Collection

FURTHER INCREASING SELECTION within the graceful Nexus Bath Collection, Toto introduces three new elements - a lavatory available as pedestal or vessel, a lavatory faucet, and a tub faucet. Offering the elemental beauty of deep soaking pools found in secluded natural spas the world over, the Nexus product line appeals to consumers for the loveliness of its natural elliptical design, high performance technology, and installation ease. Today's homeowners are converting their homes to fit their lifestyles, and the bath has become a larger space that serves as a personally customized home retreat where



style and harmony are paramount. For today's multi-purposed bath space, the newly expanded Nexus Bath Collection provides the height of beauty, luxury and performance.

Your personalized home recording

YOUR PERSONALIZED HOME RECORDING IS just a chip away. With the WOW Recording Chip you can record yourself singing in the comforts of your home. The WOW Recording Chip is an accessory that makes it possible to record on your WOW Mabuhay and WOW Fiesta video microphone. With a WOW Mabuhay microphone your recordings can be downloaded into your computer and converted into wave format. With the use of your favorite program you can make audio CDs, or transform the recordings into MP3s. Once you have downloaded your recordings, you can easily erase it from the recording chip, and start recording again. The recording chip is also compatible with the WOW Fiesta microphone, but without the downloading feature. WOW Recording Chip is exclusively distributed by In-A-Jiffy Enterprises/G2K Corp. Available at all branches of Abenson, Odyssey, Astrovision, Automatic Center and other leading appliance, music and video stores nationwide. For more information, call 362-6479, 3619450 and 722-5527 or visit their website at www.wowmagicsing.com.



The best preparation for school

A CHILD'S ABILITY TO ENJOY ALL the benefits of being in school is dependent on his health, both physical and mental. Moms are well advised to look into giving their children the best possible support for their body and mind. A well-balanced and complete diet throughout the day, including a hearty breakfast ensures your child is getting the nutrition his growing body requires. Adequate rest and sleep are important as well. You can also help support his physical and mental growth by giving him supplements containing nutrients found in nature. Memory Plus Syrup is a daily supplement that you can give your active children as they adjust to a new academic year and to new sets of pressures and challenges in school. Memory Plus is natural and kid-friendly, made from four powerful



brain tonics Centella asiatica, Bacopa moniera, Lecithin and DHA (Omega 3). Start your child every morning with a dose of Memory Plus and give him the best preparation for school. Memory Plus Syrups are available nationwide in all Mercury Drug and SM Watsons outlets.

French syrup Monin enters RP market

GET HOLD OF THE NEWEST DRINK TO INVADE the Philippine market. Monin, a leading professional syrup maker is finally here with more exquisite flavor that would satisfy your taste buds. Monin flavored syrup is perfect for coffee, desserts, hot and chilled drink, granitas, or gourmet dessert toppings. It will add a different flavor to the usual drink. Monin originated in France in 1912 and has been distributed in over 100 countries. Monin is known to be a provider of the finest quality flavored syrups. We procure the very best natural raw ingredients from more than 20 countries, selecting only the premier suppliers. Then we process these ingredients with no additives, no preservatives, nothing that would hide the pure flavor. What you enjoy in each bottle of Monin is the finest syrup available anywhere," said company president Olivier Monin.



NEW APPOINTEES TO PRB-CB TAKE OATH

Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Commissioners Renato B. Valdecantos, Avelina A dela Rea and Chair Leonor Tripon Rosero swear in newly appointed members of the Professional Regulatory Board for Customs Brokers (3rd from left) Ferdinand A. Nague and Silverio F. Montalbo. Also shown is new Chair Constantino Calica, who earlier took his

oath of office. They are the first Chair and members of the Professional Regulatory Board for Customs Brokers who have been appointed by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo pursuant to Sec. 5 of RA 9280 otherwise known as the Customs Brokers Act of 2004. The Customs Brokers Licensure Examinations this year are set on Oct. 10, 11 and 12 in Manila and Cebu.

HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL PRESS LAUNCH

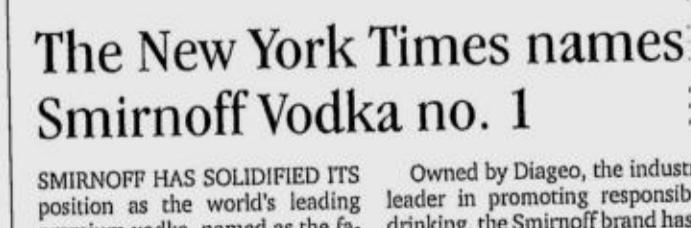
The Harvard Business School Press boutique located in National Book Store Glorietta Branch in Makati City was formally launched on May 19. National Bookstore joins the prestigious ranks of 45 carefully selected bookstores featuring the Harvard Business School Press Boutique found in countries across Asia, North America and Europe. McGraw-Hill Education Philippines is the exclusive distributor of Harvard Business School Press in Asia. Shown during the launch at the National Book Store, Glorietta branch (from left) Rey Elbo of the Manila Times, National Book Store's general manager and founder - So-



corro Ramos, Dante Velasco of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Trina Alindogan of National Book Store Glorietta, vice president of corporate communications of Manila North Tollways Corp Marlene Ochoa, Stela Suyat of McGraw-Hill, Odessa Gaciong of McGraw-Hill and Cal Gualberto of National Book Store.

ANIMALAND'S 'KITTY FOR MOM' WINNERS

Animaland, the do-it-yourself stuffed animal store recently awarded the 'Kitty For Mom' designer kitties to the following winners: Melanie Padriguela (in left photo with her kids and Milyn Reyes of Animaland) of Twinville Subdivision, Marikina won the JC Buenavida-designed Kitty; Jessica Cruz (in right photo with her kids and Rose



The New York Times names Smirnoff Vodka no. 1

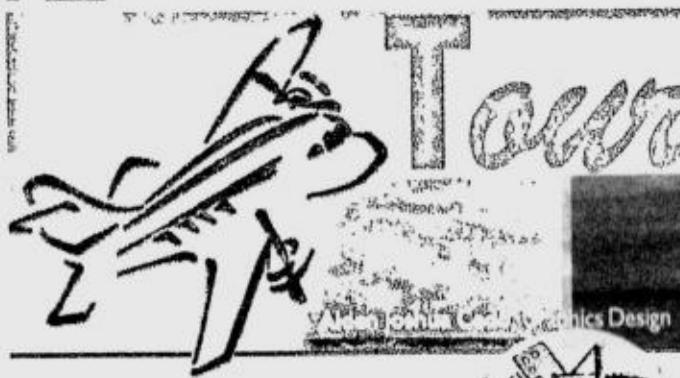
SMIRNOFF HAS SOLIDIFIED ITS position as the world's leading premium vodka, named as the favorite among 21 brands and eclipsing rivals including Ketel One, Grey Goose and Belvedere.

A blind taste test conducted by The New York Times that included a diverse panel of spirits experts characterized the best-selling vodka as "pure, clean and ultra-smooth, with pleasing texture and classic vodka aroma." The panel tested vodkas from countries including Poland, the United States, the Netherlands and Estonia.

"We're proud of this recognition as it validates what we've known all along about the smooth, premium quality of Smirnoff," said James Thompson, president of global marketing for Smirnoff. "Consumers worldwide know and trust that crisp, classic taste. It's no surprise Smirnoff is the best-selling premium vodka in the world."

Owning by Diageo, the industry leader in promoting responsible drinking, the Smirnoff brand has a heritage that dates back to the 19th century. Smirnoff described by Eric Asimov of The New York Times as containing "smooth neutrality and pleasing texture," was also recognized with a gold medal in the 2003 San Francisco World Spirits Competition.

Smirnoff has always been known for premium quality vodka. Today, Smirnoff is the world's leading premium vodka brand, with distribution in 130 countries and a number of innovative products, including Smirnoff Ice, the world's leading ready-to-drink alcohol beverage, launched in 1999, and Smirnoff Twist flavored vodkas. For more information about the Smirnoff brand, visit its website, www.smirnoff.com. Celebrating life, every day, everywhere, responsibly.



Where to Stop Where to Go

A weekly directory
of the country's best establishments

ASTORIA
Service Residential Suites
Astoria Plaza
15 J. Escrivá Drive, Ortigas Business District,
Pasig City 1600
Tel. 687-1111 Fax 691-0370
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalayaan St., Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111 Fax (02) 899-1415
Email: makati@citygardenhotels.com

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Diamond Hotel Philippines
Cor. Dr. J. Quinto St. Roxas Blvd.
Tel. (02) 528-3000 Fax 526-2255

Edsa Shangri-La
MANILA
Edsa Shangri-La Manila
1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Manila
Tel. 633-8888
www.shangri-la.com

Executive Plaza Hotel
1630 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel. 523-1000 Fax 525-8979
Email: sales@executiveplazahotel.com
www.executiveplazahotel.com

Golden Pine
Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda
Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 444-9970 to 71/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704
Email: goldenpineholte@skynet.net

V HOTEL VENIZ
Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700 to 03
Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: hotelveniz@skynet.net
www.hotelveniz.com

Las Palmas Hotel Manila
1616 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (632) 521-1000 Fax (632) 523-6917
www.laspalmasmotel.com.ph

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

Renaissance Makati City Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.mariott.com

PALM PLAZA
Palm Plaza Hotel
Pedro Gil corner M. Adriatico Sts., Manila
Tel. (02) 522-1000 Fax 525-8013
www.palmpazahotel.com

Pearl Farm Beach Resort
Kaputian Island Garden, City of Samal
Tel. (082) 221-9970 to 73
Manila: (02) 750-1896 Fax (082) 221-9979

SOMERSET
Somerset Salcedo, Makati
H.V. del Costa St., cor. L.P. Levista St.,
Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Tel. 888-6668 Fax: 888-6655

SOMERSET
Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguinaldo St., Legazpi Village, 1229
Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax. 812-7721

SOMERSET
Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax. 818-8254

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181 / Fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com

The Regent Hotel
Elias Angeles St., Naga City
Tel. (6354) 4722626 / Fax (6354) 4722525

Tours, Leisure & Choice

ckalingyan@inquirer.com.ph
877-8660 local 238

Aries Espinosa, Editor-

Thai Way of Life, The Dusit Cook Book

"THAI WAY OF LIFE, THE DUSIT COOK Book" is the latest project of the Dusit Group's founder and honorary chairperson, Thanpuying Chanut Panyaui. This coffee-table book presents popular Thai recipes set out clearly and colorfully in the context of Thai culture. The book is part of the Dusit Group's continuing mission to promote the charm of Thai hospitality to the world.

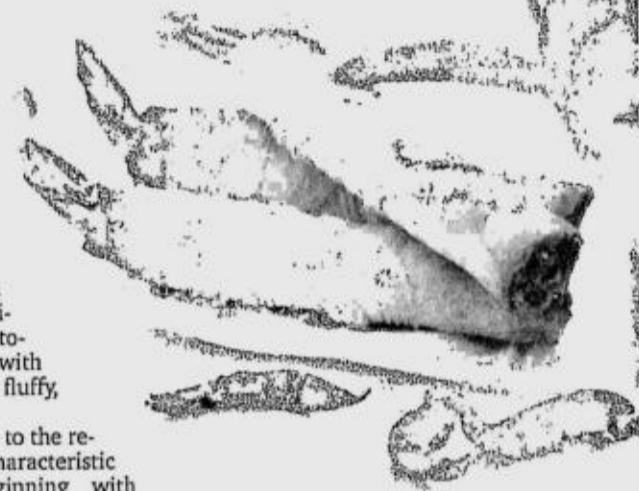
Thai cuisine is often the first aspect of its culture. And its presence is felt overseas, in the plethora of Thai restaurants that have become popular in so many countries. In the Philippines, it has been notably expressed in Dusit Hotel Nikko's famed Thai restaurant, Benjarong.

Benjarong is the flagship Thai restaurant of the Dusit Group that was introduced in all its properties worldwide. Benjarong, meaning "five colours," is the name of the unique Thai porcelain traditionally used in the Siamese palaces for auspicious festivities and royal occasions. The palaces of the nobility is the repository of the Royal Thai cuisine, where the selection, preparation and serving of food was elevated to a high art. Refinement, skill, inventiveness and adherence to firmly defined rules of taste are the hallmarks of the Royal Thai cuisine and the tradition has been

continued at Benjarong.

An appetizing coffee-table book of 152 pages with a refreshing cover—a trio of golden brown, noodle-wrapped prawns, a pale green leaf, a pair of red-bronze dried chillies and a sparkle of gold leaf. The contents follow a clear progression of Thai food culture illustrated significantly by a full-page photograph of a benjarong bowl with its lid removed to reveal fluffy, white grains of rice.

The book then takes you to the regions of Thailand with characteristic recipes from each, beginning with Bangkok and the Central Plains, the capital cities Sukhothai, Ayutthaya and Bangkok, the palace cuisine and the Chinese influence. The recipes, 21 in this section, are illustrated with full page, larger than life photographs of detailed clarity on one page. On the opposite page are clear preparation and serving instructions with the ingredients listed in a box on the left side of the page, and some useful



chef's tips added at the bottom.

"The Thai Way of Life, The Dusit Cook Book" is priced at P1,950. The book is available for sale at Benjarong and the Deli Shop, located at the mezzanine level and lobby level respectively of Dusit Hotel Nikko, Ayala Center, Makati City. For inquiries, please call the Hotel at 867-3333.

July is 'Heart and Seoul' month at Waterfront

KOREAN CUISINE IS THE traditional food of Korea. From the complex Korean royal court cuisine to regional specialties to modern fusion cuisine, the ingredients and preparation are richly varied, and many dishes are becoming internationally popular. Based largely on rice, vegetables, meats and tofu (dubu in Korean), traditional Korean meals are notable for the number of side dishes (banchan) that accompany the ubiquitous steam-cooked short-grain rice, soup, and kimchi (fermented, spicy vegetable banchan, most commonly cabbage, radish or cucumber). Every meal is accompanied by numerous banchan.

Some of these traditional royal cuisines, which can cost as much as US\$250 per person excluding drinks, include serving by exclusive waiters and can be found at high-end restaurants in select locations within the city of Seoul. Imperial cuisine has received a recent boost in popularity, due to Dae Jang Geum, a Korean television drama very popular in many parts of Asia, about a humble girl becoming the royal head chef during the Joseon period.

In many aspects Korean cuisine is a combination of Japanese and Chinese techniques in preparing food. If compared to Japanese cuisine, it relies less on fish and seafood; if compared to Chinese, it relies less on oil.

The staple food of course is rice (bap). Rice noodles (chapche) and bean curd (duboo) are common starch substitutes or additions. Korean foods tend to be spicier than either Japanese or Chinese dishes. The hotness comes chiefly from chili. Other common spices are sesame and ginger. Most peculiar

about Korean cuisine, however, is its way of pickling instead of cooking vegetables. Pickled vegetables in Korean is kimchi, a term anyone visiting Korean restaurants will learn fast. Literally kimchi is just the word for vegetables; but pickling is so predominant that even for the Koreans, kimchi also means pickled vegetables and they only specify the preparation if it is other than pickled. Koreans are likely to eat pickled vegetables every day of the year, commonly for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. In the cold Korean winter kimchi can last for many months. However, in the tropical Thai climate, kimchi should be and is prepared only several days before consumption. The pickling process takes about 12 to 14 hours. Almost all available vegetables can be pickled but the most common in Korea are cabbage, turnip, and cucumber. The seasoning is chili, garlic, onion, ginger, oyster sauce, fish sauce, and salt. During the fermenting process the vegetables loose much of their natural flavor and instead adopt the flavor of the seasoning. The difference in texture, however, is enhanced.

Taste the unforgettable, many flavors of Korea all Sundays of July in Uno, in 'Heart and Seoul', a special Sunday Lunch and Dinner Buffet, at P750 per person. Uno, located at the Hotel's Lobby Level, is open from 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. with a daily breakfast buffet from 5:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., lunch buffet from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and dinner buffet from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. For inquiries and reservations, one may call tel. no. 232-6888 (local 8604 and 8201) or Manila Sales and Reservations office at (02) 687-0888.

Uno is the search for the ultimate videoke singing star ends at The Bellevue Hotel on July 10 for The Bellevue Idol Grand Finals. Monthly winners of the weekly singing contest square off for a chance to win over P100,000 worth of prizes, including a Boracay holiday and a stint as the Bellevue Videoke Nights host. See who reigns supreme! Sponsored by Fairways & Bluewater Resort Golf & Country Club, Perfect Rhythms, Brittany Corporation and Asian Spirit.

Catch one of the hottest musical acts, Barb Almalibis, live at southern Metro Manila's most happenin' hotspot — The Bellevue Hotel. On July 15, grab the chance to get up close and personal with this shining pop star, sing along to her hits and other favorite tunes. P350 gets you in with one round of standard drink. Entertainment starts at 9 p.m. with seating on a first come first served basis. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

The search for the ultimate videoke singing star ends at The Bellevue Hotel on July 10 for The Bellevue Idol Grand Finals. Monthly winners of the weekly singing contest square off for a chance to win over P100,000 worth of prizes, including a Boracay holiday and a stint as the Bellevue Videoke Nights host. See who reigns supreme! Sponsored by Fairways & Bluewater Resort Golf & Country Club, Perfect Rhythms, Brittany Corporation and Asian Spirit.

Bam! SUMMER'S JUST ENDED, BUT not with Acer Philippines, Inc. For them, summer is just starting, and it's still scorching hot at this time of the year, with prizes galore that's sure to tickle everybody's brains with delight. Well, at least for the next two months.

Acer Philippines, Inc. introduces its "Win with Acer - Enjoy Life Promo" where every purchase of an Acer notebook computer or desktop gives customers the chance to win exciting prizes.

If you're not excited yet, try this for starters. For the 1st prize, two lucky guys can win round-trip tickets for two to the USA. Well, your guess is right! It's These are round-trip tickets to two of the most exciting places on this planet, the jaw-dropping and awe-inspiring Universal Studios, and to the young and young-at-hearts' number one favorite, Disneyland. These prizes come packed with 4-days, 3-nights hotel accommodation and whole day long fun, adventure, and excitement at Universal Studios and Disneyland.

For the other major prizes, three lucky individuals get to bring home one Acer TravelMate 3022WTMI Pearl White "White Angel" notebooks each for the 2nd prize that he

can show off to friends, office mates, and family members. Ten winners, on the other hand, will win Sony Ericsson W550i mobile phones for the 3rd prize, while 15 lucky customers can win Canon Powershot A430 digital cameras and 20 can win 1GB iPod nano MP3 players for the 4th and 5th prizes, respectively.

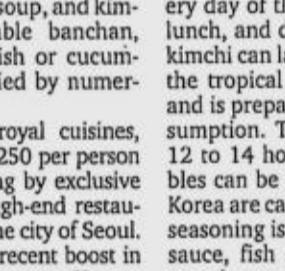
But don't feel bad if you don't get any of the majors, since 300 other individuals can take home Imation 512MB Swivel Pro iFlash Drives!

So how do you get these fun and exhilarating rewards? It's simple. Buy any Acer product, that means either a notebook computer or a desktop that's pre-loaded with genuine Windows operating system from June 1 to July 31, 2006 at any participating Acer reseller nationwide and you get the chance to bag these goodies.

To join, just log on at www.acer.com.ph and fill out the customer information registration page. Each Acer product purchased is equivalent to 1 electronic raffle entry. Raffle draw will be held on August 10, 2006 at the Acer Philippines, Inc. head office, located at Unit 3401, 34th floor, PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue cor. VA. Rufino Sts., Makati City.



TASTY banchan, kimchi, bulgogi and many more.



TASTY banchan, kimchi, bulgogi and many more.

People, Events & Products

350 ways to enjoy life from Acer

The key to successful schools

LILIA VENGO, FORMER PRINCIPAL of La Salle Greenhills, pioneering principal of De La Salle Canlubang, former member of the De La Salle Zobel board of directors, and PAASCU chair, is one of the speakers at the AHEAD Professional Network's (AHEADPRO) Leadership Strategies for School Managers (LESSM) on July 7 and 8 at La Salle Greenhills lecture hall. Vengco states, "There are teachers who show potential of becoming principals or school administrators, but may either have inadequate knowledge or skills, or may lack reliable leadership qualities that would enable them to successfully lead their respective schools to excellence." What these school administrators need, she said, is leadership training that would guide them in improving student performance, attaining excellent academic achievements, and boosting faculty and staff morale. LESSM aims to enhance the leadership skills of school leaders and managers by making them aware of their leadership behaviors. It is hoped that they can further develop their personal strengths, skills and talents, and use these to achieve their goals. The participants will be taught what leadership strategies they could employ

to strengthen confidence and competence. They will be guided to reflect, analyze and appraise their abilities and experiences and to learn from them. Lastly, the participants will be directed to create a Personal Growth Plan that would encourage them to set goals that are specific, attainable and measurable; and that actively envision concrete, short-term and desired outcomes. The other speakers are: Cornell Soto, Ph.D., former assistant headmaster of Ateneo de Manila Grade School, professor of Ateneo Graduate School and PAASCU chair; and Leticia Penano-Ho, Ed.D., president of the Philippine Association of the Gifted and former dean of the UP College of Education. There are limited slots, and aspiring participants will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. For inquiries, call Salree Jardiolin at 426-0036 or 0917-8911187, e-mail info@ahedph.com, or visit our website at www.ahedph.com. LESSM will also be conducted in key cities such as Quezon City, Baguio, Cebu and Davao. LESSM is brought to you by Philippine Daily Inquirer and Radio Partners Inc.: 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite, Magic 89.9, Jam 88.3 and Wave 89.1.

BAM! SUMMER'S JUST ENDED, BUT not with Acer Philippines, Inc. For them, summer is just starting, and it's still scorching hot at this time of the year, with prizes galore that's sure to tickle everybody's brains with delight. Well, at least for the next two months.

Acer Philippines, Inc. introduces its "Win with Acer - Enjoy Life Promo" where every purchase of an Acer notebook computer or desktop gives customers the chance to win exciting prizes.

SCIENCE / HEALTH

Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/age/city/message to

Coping and living with diabetes

By Charles E. Buban

AS A YOUNG MOTHER, Cathy Santillan thought her 7-year-old son's excessive water drinking and lethargy was just part of his growing up. After all, Miguel's regular checkup yielded nothing significant and in fact was advised to just take more vitamins.

"It was only after a friend, who noticed Miguel getting thinner and thinner, told us to have his blood sugar checked that things got clearer. As soon as our family pediatrician received the lab result, we were advised to take Miguel to the nearest hospital. Her diagnosis: diabetes," recalled the former television news anchor.

The diagnosis naturally puzzled Cathy considering no one in her family suffers from diabetes. "Was there something that we have done like giving him too much sweets? Or is there some kind of drug that will cure this and when will this be over?" Cathy reminisced asking their pediatrician.

Lifelong disease

At this point, her doctor told Miguel's type 1 diabetes that he was diagnosed with, will not go away and requires lifelong treatment.

Type 1 diabetes develops when a person's pancreas stops producing enough insulin. Insulin lets blood sugar—also called glucose—enter the body's cells. Without insulin, cells cannot absorb glucose, which they need to produce energy.

Type 1 diabetes is much less common than type 2 diabetes, accounting for 5 percent to 10 percent of all people with diabetes.

Persons with type 1 diabetes are believed to have a genetic susceptibility to developing diabetes. It was believed that exposure to a trigger (viral, environmental, toxin) stimulates the body's immune system to destroy the cells that release insulin (located in the pancreas), eventually eliminating insulin production from the body.

Manageable

However, the doctor assured Cathy that even though her son's condition can't be prevented, it can be managed successfully.

"Miguel was diagnosed at the age of 7, and has grown in his ability to manage his diabetes. Now at 15, he is a typical teenager doing the same kinds of things other kids do," she related.

The only "unusual" among Miguel's everyday chores would include occasional monitoring of his glucose level (using a tiny blood glucose monitoring system), giving himself insulin injections, and paying special attention to the amounts of sugars and starches in the food he eats and the timing of his meals.

See a doctor

"I see my doctor once a month regarding my special needs and controlling my diabetes. I also keep a meal plan—low in fat and high in fiber and carbohydrates—or list of foods that I should eat," said Miguel who also bikes and swims to keep himself fit.

While Miguel admits that he still craves for sweets and snacks from time to time, he tries to manage this by taking Glucerna products (from Abbott), which are specifically made for people with diabetes as it was clinically shown to help



CATHY Santillan and son Miguel

manage glucose levels.

Like any other children with diabetes, Miguel also has to balance the type and timing of the food he eats with the amount of insulin he takes and with his activity level. That's because eating some foods will cause glucose to go up more than others, whereas insulin and exercise will make the glucose levels go down.

"Indeed, having a child with diabetes may seem overwhelming at times, but one should remember that we are not alone. The doctor and the Internet as well as a number of support groups are not only great sources for dealing with glucose control and other medical issues, but also for supporting and helping you and your child cope and live with diabetes," Santillan assured.

Early warning signs

SYMPTOMS OF TYPE 1 DIABETES usually start in childhood or young adulthood, yet parents often miss early warning signs. If you notice any of the following symptoms don't wait until he or she is seriously ill from sudden symptoms of high glucose level. Have your child's blood sugar checked since most regular checkups will not include this test:

- Urinates frequently—A child with diabetes needs to urinate more frequently because the kidneys in response to high levels of glucose in the bloodstream, flush out the extra glucose in urine.

- Is abnormally thirsty—A child who has diabetes drinks a lot in an attempt to keep the level of body water normal. Also, because of frequent urination, the child loses so much fluids (that causes dehydration) that he or she becomes very thirsty and compensates by drinking more water.

- Loses weight or fails to gain significant weight gain as the child grows—In spite of a good appetite, a child who develops type 1 diabetes often loses weight because the body breaks down muscle and stored fat in an attempt to provide fuel to the hungry cells.

- Lethargic—Because the body can't use glucose for energy properly, the child often feels sluggish and often feels too tired.

Osteoporosis: the "silent epidemic"

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

WE'RE ALWAYS WORRIED about all sorts of epidemics, but we seem to overlook one silent epidemic which is slowly incapacitating a lot of Filipinos, particularly post-menopausal women. This problem is osteoporosis, which health experts now label as a public health threat.

Asians are at high risk of osteoporosis compared to their Caucasian counterparts because of relatively lower bone density, inadequate calcium-rich diet as children and an increasingly sedentary lifestyle.

MEDICAL FILES

The report on "Adherence Gap: Why Osteoporosis Patients Don't Continue With Treatment," found that 85 percent of doctors had prescribed a bisphosphonate, a popular treatment for osteoporosis, but in 70 percent, patients spontaneously stopped taking their bisphosphonate medication. Reasons for discontinuation of treatment were predominantly related to inconvenience and side effects.

Improved form

Last night (Friday), an improved long-acting form of bisphosphonate was launched in the market and hopefully, this will answer the problems which lead to treatment discontinuation. Ibandronic acid, marketed as Boniva, has been shown in clinical trials to strengthen all the bones in the body by taking just one tablet once a month. I wish there's a similar drug for hypertension, diabetes and other chronic medical problems. This convenient dosing schedule should help high-risk patients to stay on therapy for the required period to improve their bone health.

The adherence factor (to osteoporosis treatment) is very significant," says Dr. Zaida Gamilla, an obstetrician-gynecologist and professor at the University of Santo Tomas College of Medicine. According to Dr. Gamilla, patients taking bone-protecting medicines like ibandronic acid should be able to sustain their treatment for the required period (one to two years) to be able to maximize the full benefits of the drug.

Taking ibandronic acid has a very high benefit-risk ratio, says Dr. Julie Li-Yu, an officer of the Osteoporosis Society and the Philippine Rheumatic Association. Patients may not see the long-term effect immediately but they will notice that their quality of life has changed for the better, especially those in their golden years.

I'm sure all of us would still want to be active even in our golden years. The sight of a 65 year old saddled on a wheelchair because of a previous fracture represents a medical failure. It's always heartwarming to see senior members of our society dancing gracefully, playing a good round of golf, or still able to do their brisk walk every morning. Maintaining bone health should be a key factor that will help ensure the fond memories of an active life past the menopausal or andropausal ages, and even beyond the golden years.

WHAT MAKES AN OUTSTANDING young Filipino scientist? Childhood influences, parental support, great teachers, strong faith, personal drive? What about their struggles, and how do they find fulfillment?

For the past two years, Philrice executive director Leo Sebastian and I have collected and edited stories from 22 Outstanding Young Scientists (OYS) who try to answer the above questions. "In Love with Science" (Anvil Publishing) will be launched on Tuesday, July 11, at the first OYS national convention at the Manila Hotel.

Many scientists come from humble beginnings, sometimes marked by tragedy. While botanist Victor Amoroso was at college, his father was gunned down, and he vowed to make his mother proud. Food chemist Ernesto Luis caught polio at one year of age, but he never let this deter him. Applied biochemist Jose Oclarit grew up in a nipa hut and traversed mountains and rivers before reaching school.

Influences

Despite the hardships, the scientists generally have remarkable parents. Botanist Rhodora Aldemita and geneticist Gabriel Romero, siblings who both became OYS, credited their mother for ensuring that the children finish school even after their father died. Animal geneticist Orville Bondoc's situation was reversed—after his mother's death, his father saw to it that all eight children earned a college degree. Forestry engineer Nathaniel Bantayan never forgot his father's dictum that feeding the brain came first, and that the stomach could wait. Medical doctor Patricio Palme's mother, a nursing aide,

'In love with Science'

EUREKA!

Queena N.
Lee-Chua

Gregorio's wife complained about a dangerous tricycle trip in Bangladesh, he replied, "That's where the action is."

Highly motivated, the OYS are passionate about their work, and derive great satisfaction from what they do. Fisheries expert Rafael Guerrero III singled out commitment as a prime ingredient, "putting ourselves fully to the chosen field of endeavor." Plant breeder Leo Sebastian never brooded on experimental failures, but approached them positively. Marine biologist Paciente Cordero Jr. resisted foreign offers because "there is still so much work to be done at home."

The OYS Award was instituted in 1980 to recognize Filipino scientists below 40 years of age, for outstanding contributions in science and technology. The National Academy of Science and Technology is the screening and selection body for this award, with criteria being the quality and number of scientific works and publications; contributions to the advances of science in general and to the Philippines in particular; and contributions to the well-being of our economy and culture.

Leo and I are proud to be in such good company, for the OYS, like the stories themselves, are truly inspiring. Proceeds of this book go to the organization OYS Inc., and a special discount will be given during the launch. We hope that teachers and parents will read these stories to our children; and that our youth will be inspired enough to follow in their footsteps, for despite all the clichés, they remain our country's best hope. For orders, contact Anvil at 637-8840 (ask for Gwenn or Jo).

E-mail the author at bless-book@yahoo.com.

Pinoy hopes to be first Southeast Asian doc to reach Everest summit

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE FILIPINO DOCTOR WHO STOOD by the sidelines at the Everest base camp while the first Filipino Everest climbers reached the world's highest peak wants to go all the way to the top during the Unity Climb next year.

Dr. Ted Esguerra, the physician who monitored the health of the members of the first Philippine Mount Everest Expedition (FPMEE) team, feels he's more than ready to carry his own weight to the summit. During the team's historic climb, Esguerra had to climb from base camp to rescue a distressed Indonesian climber, a Nepalese government official and a Sherpa.

Rescue doc

A rescue doctor of the Philippine Coast Guard who specializes in Wilderness Emergency Medical Services and aviation medicine, Esguerra runs two km every day lugging an 18-kg backpack.

Esguerra, who now weighs 65 kg, lost four kilos during the Everest stint.

Knowledgeable in the important aspect of wilderness medical services and aviation medicine known as "high-altitude physiology," Esguerra will also train three doctors and three nurses for the Unity Climb. He

expects a larger Filipino contingent to watch over—15 members, 10 of whom will go all the way up from the Nepalese and Tibetan faces. The rest will stay at the base camp. Two big medical tents, both surgically capable, will also be set up there.

Among the 10 climbers are three Filipino women climbers who will attempt to reach Everest summit during the Unity Climb. Their training, along with the medical contingent, will start in September.

Physical conditioning

Much like superstar slugger Manny Pacquiao, the Everest climbers, particularly Erwin "Pastor" Emata and Leo Oracion, have been treated like celebrities since coming back. And ever since, the buffet table has always been Esguerra's red light for the climbers.

"They need to lower carbohydrate loading. Diet programs are in place now that they are not yet in full swing with their exercises," he said. He added that the food intake would concentrate more on protein loading.

However, as far as physical recovery is concerned, Esguerra is convinced Emata and Oracion are still at their "optimum levels." The two climbers' red blood cell levels, which would be a good indicator of high-altitude preparedness, are already high because of hypoxic training, Esguerra added.

"We've already asked them to go back to exercising. On Monday they had a 24-hour bike run in Malolos, Bulacan. Their conditioning is still above average," he said.

Hypoxic training

Biking would just be part of the exercise routine. There will be two sets of exercises for the Everest Team. The first set includes jogging, biking, gym workouts, and groin stretching for climbing capabilities (pull-ups, push-ups and sit-ups).

The second set would be swimming and hypoxic training (including breath-holding in water to program the body to function in an oxygen-deprived environment). Part of hypoxic training also involves strenuous biking with nose covers.

Irreplaceable brain cells

The exhilaration of reaching Everest summit does have a permanent trade-off, however. Once climbers enter the dreaded "death zone" (any altitude above 25,000 feet or 7,600 meters), brain cells start to die because of the lack of oxygen. Dead brain cells, Esguerra said, are irreplaceable.

Such is the importance of hypoxic training



Esguerra was trained at the Western Himalayan Mountaineering Institute in Manali, India

ing. As an additional preparation, Esguerra had required the climbers to drink the herbal medicine Rhodiola that reportedly enhances oxygenation to the brain. He said he learned about the medicine in Tibet from Sherpas who regularly concocted it.

Several Rhodiola websites indicate that the herb has been used by Russian athletes and cosmonauts. Purportedly a powerful antiaging phyto supplement with adaptogenic and anti-stress capabilities, Rhodiola is said to have been used for centuries to cope with the cold and physical stresses of the Siberian climate.

"We are taking the herb (in an attempt) to regenerate dying brain cells," Esguerra said.

Pastor, a self-confessed Rhodiola drinker, told the Inquirer that aside from normalizing his blood pressure, his bowel movement became regular and he felt an increase in endurance particularly during his

participation in adventure racing, a multi-sports event game that involves kayaking, navigation skills, caving (spelunking), and rappelling, among others.

Coping with high altitudes

Esguerra said his team also takes Ginkgo Biloba, the usual supplement to cope with high altitudes, aside from taking regular vitamin supplements.

Will Esguerra allow one of his climbers to forego with the supplementary oxygen during the Unity Climb? Esguerra said this consideration will depend on their team's climb to Cho Oyu's peak this September. Cho Oyu, in Tibet, is the world's sixth highest peak at 8,200 meters.

"If Leo can make it in Cho Oyu (without oxygen tanks), I will recommend him to do it in Everest, too. Leo wants to test his limits, but this will still be subject for approval of our expedition leader."



The Residential Resort at Newport City

The Metro's First and Only Luxury Resort Residences

Fronting NAIA Terminal 3, Pasay City

*Featuring the newest phase:
SARASOTA*

ways to enjoy a metro resort lifestyle.

1 Make everyday a red-letter day at the Marriott Hotel.

Turn every day into something special at the Marriott Hotel. Entertain friends in style. Talk business with colleagues in a modern function room. Or simply savor the company of loved ones in a five-star setting.



2 Get that vacation feeling at the Villamor Golf Course.

Escape to a championship-level golf haven close to home. At the Villamor golf course, you can tee off at your leisure. Or simply enjoy the sight of 60 hectares of green landscapes, pristine white sand and rows of narra, mango and pine trees.



3 Go on a food trip at a hip restaurant row.

Dine on the best of the East and West. Choose from casual and fine-dining places—all a stroll away from home. And delight in alfresco gourmet feasts as you watch live performances.

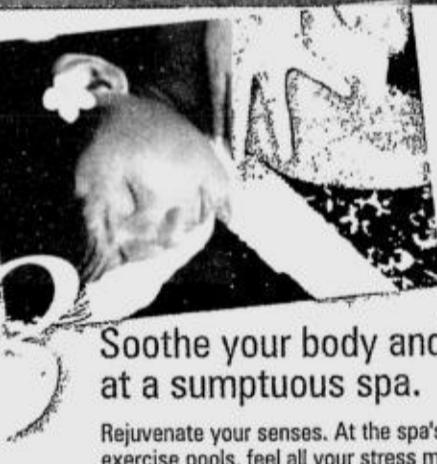


4 Get together with neighbors at the play areas.

Nurture neighborly ties. Lounge with friends at the swimming pool. Work out together at the gym. Hone your game at the badminton and tennis courts or putting green. Or bond with your families at the landscaped gardens and playground.

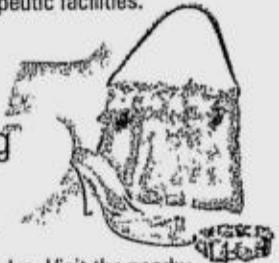


**Join us on July 16, Sunday, from 9 AM to 5 PM,
at the Newport City Grand Showroom.**



5 Soothe your body and soul at a sumptuous spa.

Rejuvenate your senses. At the spa's heat and exercise pools, feel all your stress melt away. Indulge yourself in relaxing treatments at the aromatherapy and massage rooms. And enjoy access to first-class therapeutic facilities.



6 Browse the shops brimming with signature fashions.

Keep up with the latest styles. Visit the nearby haute couture stores and indulge in hours of shopping pleasure. Go ahead. Grab, try and buy.

7 Live close to nature in a 2-bedroom luxury home for as low as P23,000 a month.



Through your wide windows and balcony, welcome sunlight, fresh air and the scent of lavishly landscaped gardens. And take pleasure in a wealth of open-air play amenities literally at your door.

Newport City Information Centre, Newport City, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines

(632) 855-7580 • 855-7583 • 855-7594 • 855-7586

For Announcement Purposes Only

Exclusive Marketing Arm:



Megaworld Newport
Property Holdings, Inc.



SCENES from an amazing trip to KL

THE AMAZING RACE ASIA

Made in Asia for Asians

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

EVERYTHING I LOVE about The Amazing Race—the plane-hopping, the new places, the excitement and human dynamics—were all present at our The Amazing Race Asia junket. But there were no major mistakes, no bickering and no commercial breaks—it was like an Amazing Race episode on Prozac. Even my hair was strangely cooperative.

And just like any episode, the trip was ripe with surprises. Like us finding ourselves on the same flight from Singapore to Malaysia as Allan Wu, the host of The Amazing Race Asia. Although the name is unfamiliar to most Filipinos, AXN fans will recognize him from his participation in Fear Factor. The network has aired countless replays of him crying and throwing up after downing 21 shots of maggots, worms, sticky beetles and rotten fish eyes blended into the perfect chunky milkshake from hell.

"Hey, are you Allan Wu?" one of my companions asked as he made his way to the immigrations area at the Kuala Lumpur airport.

Allan looked shocked but quickly recovered. "Yes, I am," he smiled.

"You're our subject tomorrow," someone said.

"Your subject?" he repeated, laughing.

Then, as he walked away, we hollered, "See you at the press conference tomorrow!"

The next day, at the press conference at Westin Kuala Lumpur, Allan was unveiled as the show's host.

During the three-on-one, he admitted

My Super trip! to Kuala

Lumpur for The Amazing Race Asia press conference felt like an episode of The Amazing Race—if everyone was on Prozac

that he was surprised we recognized him at the airport. The host's identity was supposed to be a secret until the day of the press con.

So many secrets

His identity isn't the only secret the people behind The Amazing Race Asia have been keeping. They refused to talk about the identity of the contestants (who were chosen from all over Asia—yes, "possibly" including the Philippines) and the places they visited during the race (again, "possibly" including the Philippines). And it's understandable. Like Ricky Ow, the General Manager of SPE Networks Asia said, "The success of a show like this depends on confidentiality."

Everyone who worked on the show—from the contestants and the sponsors to the crew—had been asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement. If anyone blabs, that person is in for major legal action. But Ricky believes that their signature isn't the only thing that's stopping people from talking. "It's the respect for something that you worked on, that you're a part of and that you're proud of. It's a personal journey for all of us, a humbling experience, a very exciting experience. You don't want to stain it by being a big mouth."

One of the many people sticking to their promise is Allan, who was careful not to let anything slip during the interview.

The guy who cried

Allan, who was born and raised in California but has been living in Singapore for the past five years, has acted in a number of Chinese TV dramas and a few films. He's also hosted a few TV shows. He also did a lot of modeling under two agencies in the US—Look and Ford.

He believes that his appearance on Fear Factor helped prepare him become the host of The Amazing Race Asia. "Because I did a reality show before, I can definitely put myself in the contestants' shoes. I can empathize and understand the challenges that they're going through."

And when told that he should have won in that episode of Fear Factor, which was aired in the Philippines last year, he said, "I've heard that a million times. I won the first two events—but the third one, I got a little too cocky and went down in history as the guy who came up short because of blind arrogance. The next thing I knew AXN had me crying and throwing up all over the airwaves all the time. People in the Philippines who know me from throwing up and crying would go, 'Hey that's the same guy who was throwing up and crying!'"

But he says that once the show airs later this year, things would be different. "You'll say, he used to cry but now you see him kicking people out of the show," Allan joked.

During the interview, Allan brandished his wit and humor. When asked what he wouldn't do for \$100,000 million he said, "I'd do it all for \$10, I'm cheap."

He described the moment he found out he was going to be the host as "a huge flur-

ry of thrills and chills." He said, "This is a show that has been around for almost a decade and is hugely successful. People in Asia love the show. But the chills came when I realized that uh oh, I need to fill Phil Keoghan's shoes. He's done such an extraordinary job and everyone I know is going to be comparing me to him. I feel the pressure but I just have to do my best."

Allan vs Phil

After discovering the many roles he has to play as the host, he soon realized that he can fill Phil's shoes in his own way. "It's amazing to see the contestants overcome their fears—that's part of my job. It's also my job to pull more out of them. I comfort them, I celebrate with them but I psyche them out too. There's acting involved. I think that's one of the differences between me and Phil."

According to Allan, who is married to actress Wong Li Lin and has two young kids, the toughest part of the job was leaving his family behind in Singapore. "It hurt a lot. At first I wasn't sure if I wanted to take this job because I'd be away from them for quite a while. But my wife and everyone else told me that this is a big opportunity."

Allan is glad he made the right choice. "As a TV host, this is the show to do. I can be on a soundstage listening to people sing or I could be on an island going nowhere or I could be just watching people eat things but this show lets you travel and see the world. It's a gift."

He says working on The Amazing Race Asia has taught him a number of things. "When you have the opportunity to see so many parts of the world in a span of about a month, I realize that I'm lucky to be alive and to have what I have. I'm truly blessed to be a part of something this big. It's a dream come true for me to be able to work

on such a successful show for Asia and to travel the world."

Allan said that the most memorable part of the job was witnessing the competition. "The human spirit. Seeing these people deal with these challenges and tasks. They're like one big family. It's not about the money. Now they want to stay friends for the rest of their lives. It's really really special."

As we said our goodbyes, Allan joked, "You'll be seeing me around whether you like it or not." Fluent in English, Mandarin and Cantonese, he also showed off his knowledge in Tagalog, as he said to the group, "Salamat" and "Ikaw ay talagang maganda."

Although Allan was careful not to reveal more than he should, he came close. "It's incredible how we can go quickly from one place to another. Let's say from..." he caught himself, cutting off his sentence. All other attempts at making him slip failed.

"Have you been to the Philippines?" we asked.

"No. But I might have," he said, smiling.

Allan almost slipped but AXN's big boss Ricky Ow did not come close. Not at all.

The big boss

After the press con, which presented the show's sponsors (Sony Electronics, Malaysia Tourism and Promotion Board, Air Asia, Caltex, MSN and Windows Live, Nokia, Bintan Lagoon Resort and Bintan Resorts and Ford, which is a local sponsor), Ricky sat with us to talk about the show which he calls "a dream come true."

"It was one we thought we could never achieve," he said. After airing nine seasons of The Amazing Race Asia on AXN, he said that they were flooded with requests for fans to let them join the contest.

When they finally announced that they were going to make an Asian version of the hit reality series, Ricky was flooded with over a thousand entries. "They're still writing

NOKIA CONNECTION 2006



A life less analog

Get your geek on

Jarred by jargon? Super explains cell phone speak, TLAs and other confusing code words

- 3G Third Generation mobile phone network, an evolution of the GSM standard that enables broadband data speeds
- AAC Advanced Audio Codec, a compression format for digital music files
- BLUETOOTH A wireless communications standard that enables mobile phones to communicate with PCs and accessories
- GPRS General Packet Radio Systems, an upgrade to GSM that enables data to be broken up and sent in packets, similar to the way the Internet works
- PICTBRIDGE A communications standard that allows mobile phones to connect directly to mobile printers
- TLA Three-letter acronym. Duh.
- WCDMA Wideband Code Division Multiple Access, the technology underpinning 3G networks

DO YOU REMEMBER this little game called Snake? If, in 1997, your thumbs were already nimble enough to worm around an alphanumeric keypad, you'd probably know what the heck I'm rambling about.

During that era, when the Spice Girls and the Backstreet Boys—R.I.P.—still roamed the earth, a Finnish company known as Nokia was preparing to launch one of its first-ever multimedia features on the 6100 series mobile phones. Crossing the revolutionary/evolutionary divide, the debut of Snake was a hint that the global technology map was somehow—maybe even deliberately—being redrawn.

A decade is, like, a lifetime in technology terms. Since then, Snake has become one of the most in-demand games in our generation's history, installed in an estimated 350 million phones around the planet. Recognizing Snake's popularity, Nokia pimped it up a bit more by bringing in a 3D version, Snakes, to the N-Gage platform early last year. Even supporting 4-player sessions, Snakes also became the first N-Gage game that can be virally distributed via Bluetooth. Who knew, right?

From a snake to a hummingbird

But it was a hummingbird, not a snake, that ushered me—so to speak—into the Sun-

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

tec City Convention Centre in Singapore for Nokia Connection 2006. "The hummingbird is an engineering marvel in how it can hover indefinitely at 80 wingbeats per second," goes the invitation, "and elegantly dart between flowers, extracting sweet nectar and pollinating as it goes." Aw!

It sounded radical, almost amusing, in its straightforwardness. Then again, as I was to find out, the world is becoming more complex but people crave simplicity. So this Nokia-hummingbird thing ("pollinating ideas and experience as they go") wasn't as far-fetched after all.

Four words to live by

A hush fell across the auditorium as Nokia's senior suits welcomed mobile operators, industry analysts, members of the worldwide press, and not a few gadget geeks. Set to Peist's "Mushaboom," Nokia's vision of tomorrow proved that, unlike the utopians of the past, the com-

pany was overwhelmingly clear-eyed and realistic about its own brand of futurism.

Nokia's grounded predictions revolved around four familiar words: live, connect, achieve, explore. To live is to inspire self-expression. To connect means balancing a product's style with its benefits. To achieve implies realizing greater business solutions. And to explore indicates sharing one's awesome new discoveries. Those four catchphrases also served as product categories, popping up Nokia's consumer studies and showing that one size does not fit all.

According to Robert Anderson, Executive Vice President, Customer Market Operations, "This is an integral part of Nokia's strategy to connect the next billion mobile users. Having the best customer understanding in the industry is vital to our whole business—from initial product designs through to sales and customer care." That just

means that most likely, there's a cell phone model

out there that corresponds to a) your lifestyle, b) your personality quirks, and c) your budget, all in one cool bundle.

Five New! Models!

From grandpa rockers U2 to newish sensations Doves, each new product's advertising soundtrack drove

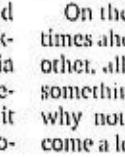
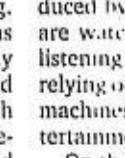
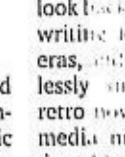
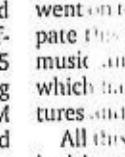
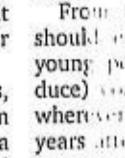
the mid-range, on-demand, customization message home. (Warning: geek speak ahead! If you want to drool, check the accompanying photos. If you want your nose to bleed, don't read the accompanying glossary.)

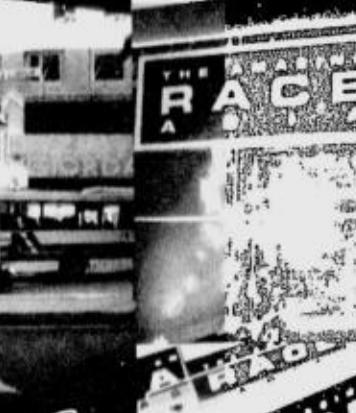
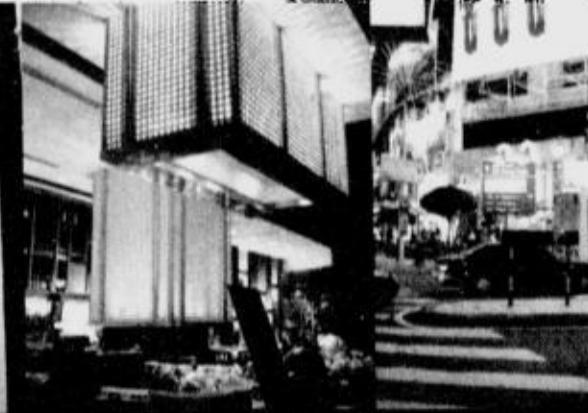
An easy-to-use and affordable 3G handset, the new Nokia 6151 is a WCDMA-enabled phone with a 1.3 megapixel camera. Another new baby is the Nokia 6080, equipped with a stereo radio and VGA camera with video recorder. Adding to Nokia's entry-level range is the 1110i, a frills-free unit that's perfect for your 5-year-old brother or your technophobic grandma.

To meet the demands of savvier users, Nokia also unveiled the 6275, a slim phone that has a 2 megapixel camera and an integrated stereo FM radio and music player. Lastly, one of the most affordable CDMA models, the Nokia 2875 has a range of fun features, including video ring tones, video streaming, an FM radio, a 1.3 megapixel camera, and more.

Digital desires

After the presentations, I wandered around the showcase, pausing occasionally to ogle at all the fantastic toys Nokia was unleashing. The amount of new stuff was staggering, perhaps thrice my weight in mobile goodies and even more in terms of fresh ideas. Moreover, it was phenomenal to note that, instead of merely calling their spanking devices "phones," Nokia now labels them "multimedia computers." Again, it was clearly a "Whoah!" mo-





SCENES from an amazing trip to KL

THE AMAZING RACE ASIA

Made in Asia for Asians

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

EVERYTHING I LOVE about The Amazing Race—the plane-hopping, the new places, the excitement and human dynamics—were all present at our The Amazing Race Asia junket. But there were no major mistakes, no bickering and no commercial breaks—it was like an Amazing Race episode on Prozac. Even my hair was strangely cooperative.

And just like any episode, the trip was ripe with surprises. Like us finding ourselves on the same flight from Singapore to Malaysia as Allan Wu, the host of The Amazing Race Asia. Although the name is unfamiliar to most Filipinos, AXN fans will recognize him from his participation in Fear Factor. The network has aired countless replays of him crying and throwing up after downing 21 shots of maggots, worms, sticky beetles and rotten fish eyes blended into the perfect chunky milkshake from hell.

"Hey, are you Allan Wu?" one of my companions asked as he made his way to the immigrations area at the Kuala Lumpur airport.

Allan looked shocked but quickly recovered. "Yes, I am," he smiled.

"You're our subject tomorrow," someone said.

"Your subject?" he repeated, laughing.

Then, as he walked away, we hollered, "See you at the press conference tomorrow!"

The next day, at the press conference at Westin Kuala Lumpur, Allan was unveiled as the show's host.

During the three-on-one, he admitted

My Super trip! to Kuala

Lumpur for The Amazing Race Asia press conference felt like an episode of The Amazing Race—if everyone was on Prozac

that he was surprised we recognized him at the airport. The host's identity was supposed to be a secret until the day of the press con.

So many secrets

His identity isn't the only secret the people behind The Amazing Race Asia have been keeping. They refused to talk about the identity of the contestants (who were chosen from all over Asia—yes, "possibly" including the Philippines) and the places they visited during the race (again, "possibly" including the Philippines). And it's understandable. Like Ricky Ow, the General Manager of SPE Networks Asia said, "The success of a show like this depends on confidentiality."

Everyone who worked on the show—from the contestants and the sponsors to the crew—had been asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement. If anyone blurbs, that person is in for major legal action. But Ricky believes that their signature isn't the only thing that's stopping people from talking. "It's the respect for something that you worked on, that you're a part of and that you're proud of. It's a personal journey for all of us, a humbling experience, a very exciting experience. You don't want to stain it by being a big mouth."

One of the many people sticking to their promise is Allan, who was careful not to let anything slip during the interview.

The guy who cried

Allan, who was born and raised in California but has been living in Singapore for the past five years, has acted in a number of Chinese TV dramas and a few films. He's also hosted a few TV shows. He also did a lot of modeling under two agencies in the US—Look and Ford.

He believes that his appearance on Fear Factor helped prepare him become the host of The Amazing Race Asia. "Because I did a reality show before, I can definitely put myself in the contestants' shoes. I can empathize and understand the challenges that they're going through."

And when told that he should have won in that episode of Fear Factor, which was aired in the Philippines last year, he said, "I've heard that a million times. I won the first two events—but the third one, I got a little too cocky and went down in history as the guy who came up short because of blind arrogance. The next thing I knew AXN had me crying and throwing up all over the airwaves all the time. People in the Philippines who know me from throwing up and crying would go, 'Hey that's the same guy who was throwing up and crying!'"

But he says that once the show airs later this year, things would be different. "You'll say, he used to cry but now you see him kicking people out of the show," Allan joked.

During the interview, Allan brandished his wit and humor. When asked what he wouldn't do for \$100,000 million he said, "I'd do it all for \$10, I'm cheap."

He described the moment he found out he was going to be the host as "a huge flur-

ry of thrills and chills." He said, "This is a show that has been around for almost a decade and is hugely successful. People in Asia love the show. But the chills came when I realized that uh oh, I need to fill Phil Keoghan's shoes. He's done such an extraordinary job and everyone I know is going to be comparing me to him. I feel the pressure but I just have to do my best."

Allan vs Phil

After discovering the many roles he has to play as the host, he soon realized that he can fill Phil's shoes in his own way. "It's amazing to see the contestants overcome their fears—that's part of my job. It's also my job to pull more out of them. I comfort them, I celebrate with them but I psyche them out too. There's acting involved. I think that's one of the differences between me and Phil."

According to Allan, who is married to actress Wong Li Lin and has two young kids, the toughest part of the job was leaving his family behind in Singapore. "It hurt a lot. At first I wasn't sure if I wanted to take this job because I'd be away from them for quite a while. But my wife and everyone else told me that this is a big opportunity."

Allan is glad he made the right choice. "As a TV host, this is the show to do. I can be on a soundstage listening to people sing or I could be on an island going nowhere or I could be just watching people eat things but this show lets you travel and see the world. It's a gift."

He says working on The Amazing Race Asia has taught him a number of things. "When you have the opportunity to see so many parts of the world in a span of about a month, I realize that I'm lucky to be alive and to have what I have. I'm truly blessed to be a part of something this big. It's a dream come true for me to be able to work

on such a successful show for Asia and to travel the world."

Allan said that the most memorable part of the job was witnessing the competition. "The human spirit. Seeing these people deal with these challenges and tasks. They're like one big family. It's not about the money. Now they want to stay friends for the rest of their lives. It's really really special."

As we said our goodbyes, Allan joked, "You'll be seeing me around whether you like it or not." Fluent in English, Mandarin and Cantonese, he also showed off his knowledge in Tagalog, as he said to the group, "Salamat" and "Ikaw ay talagang maganda."

Although Allan was careful not to reveal more than he should, he came close. "It's incredible how we can go quickly from one place to another. Let's say from... he caught himself, cutting off his sentence. All other attempts at making him slip failed.

"Have you been to the Philippines?" we asked.

"No. But I might have," he said, smiling.

Allan almost slipped but AXN's big boss Ricky Ow did not come close. Not at all.

The big boss

After the press con, which presented the show's sponsors (Sony Electronics, Malaysia Tourism and Promotion Board, Air Asia, Caltex, MSN and Windows Live, Nokia, Bintan Lagoon Resort and Bintan Resorts and Ford, which is a local sponsor), Ricky sat with us to talk about the show, which he calls "a dream come true."

"It was one we thought we could never achieve," he said. After airing nine seasons of The Amazing Race Asia on AXN, he said that they were flooded with requests for fans to let them join the contest.

When they finally announced that they were going to make an Asian version of the hit reality series, Ricky was flooded with over a thousand entries. "They're still writing

NOKIA CONNECTION 2006



A life less analog

Get your geek on

Jarred by jargon? Super explains cell phone speak, TLAs and other confusing code words

- 3G Third Generation mobile phone network, an evolution of the GSM standard that enables broadband data speeds
- AAC Advanced Audio Codec, a compression format for digital music files
- BLUETOOTH A wireless communications standard that enables mobile phones to communicate with PCs and accessories
- GPRS General Packet Radio Systems, an upgrade to GSM that enables data to be broken up and sent in packets, similar to the way the Internet works
- PICTBRIDGE A communications standard that allows mobile phones to connect directly to mobile printers
- TLA Three-letter acronym. Duh.
- WCDMA Wideband Code Division Multiple Access, the technology underpinning 3G networks

DO YOU REMEMBER this little game called Snake? If, in 1997, your thumbs were already nimble enough to worm around an alphanumeric keypad, you'd probably know what the heck I'm rambling about.

During that era, when the Spice Girls and the Backstreet Boys—R.I.P.—still roamed the earth, a Finnish company known as Nokia was preparing to launch one of its first-ever multimedia features on the 6100 series mobile phones. Crossing the revolutionary/evolutionary divide, the debut of Snake was a hint that the global technology map was somehow maybe even deliberately—being redrawn.

A decade is, like, a lifetime in technology terms. Since then, Snake has become one of the most in-demand games in our generation's history, installed in an estimated 350 million phones around the planet. Recognizing Snake's popularity, Nokia pimped it up a bit more by bringing in a 3D version. Snakes, to the N-Gage platform early last year. Even supporting 4-player sessions, Snakes also became the first N-Gage game that can be virally distributed via Bluetooth. Who knew, right?

From a snake to a hummingbird

But it was a hummingbird, not a snake, that ushered me—so to speak—into the Sun-

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

tec City Convention Centre in Singapore for Nokia Connection 2006. "The hummingbird is an engineering marvel in how it can hover indefinitely at 80 wingbeats per second," goes the invitation, "and elegantly dart between flowers, extracting sweet nectar and pollinating as it goes." Aww...

It sounded radical, almost amusing, in its straightforwardness. Then again, as I was to find out, the world is becoming more complex but people crave simplicity. So this Nokia-hummingbird thing ("pollinating ideas and experience as they go") wasn't as far-fetched after all.

Four words to live by

A hush fell across the auditorium as Nokia's senior suits welcomed mobile operators, industry analysts, members of the worldwide press, and not a few gadget geeks. Set to Feist's "Mushaboom," Nokia's vision of tomorrow proved that, unlike the utopians of the past, the com-

pany was overwhelmingly clear-eyed and realistic about its own brand of futurism.

Nokia's grounded predictions revolved around four familiar words: live, connect, achieve, explore. To live is to inspire self-expression. To connect means balancing a product's style with its benefits. To achieve implies realizing greater business solutions. And to explore indicates sharing one's awesome new discoveries. Those four catchphrases also served as product categories, propping up Nokia's consumer studies and showing that one size does not fit all.

According to Robert Andersson, Executive Vice President, Customer Market Operations, "This is an integral part of Nokia's strategy to connect the next billion mobile users. Having the best customer understanding in the industry is vital to our whole business—from initial product designs through to sales and customer care." That just means that most likely, there's a cell phone model out there that corresponds to a) your lifestyle, b) your personality quirks, and c) your budget, all in one cool bundle.

Five! New! Models!

From grandpa rockers U2 to newish sensations Doves, each new product's advertising soundtrack drove

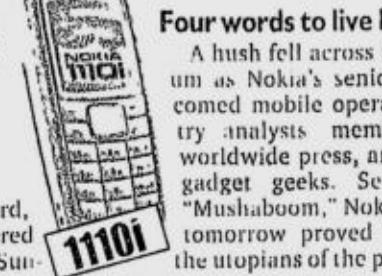
the mid-range, on-demand, customization message home. (Warning: geek speak ahead! If you want to drool, check the accompanying photos. If you want your nose to bleed, don't read the accompanying glossary.)

An easy-to-use and affordable 3G handset, the new Nokia 6151 is a WCDMA-enabled phone with a 1.3 megapixel camera. Another new baby is the Nokia 6080, equipped with a stereo radio and VGA camera with video recorder. Adding to Nokia's entry-level range is the 1110i, a frills-free unit that's perfect for your 5-year-old brother or your technophobic grandma.

To meet the demands of savvier users, Nokia also unveiled the 6275, a slim phone that has a 2 megapixel camera and an integrated stereo FM radio and music player. Lastly, one of the most affordable CDMA models, the Nokia 2875 has a range of fun features, including video ring tones, video streaming, an FM radio, a 1.3 megapixel camera, and more.

Digital desires

After the presentations, I wandered around the showcase, pausing occasionally to ogle at all the fantastic toys Nokia was unleashing. The amount of new stuff was staggering, perhaps thrice my weight in mobile goodies and even more in terms of fresh ideas. Moreover, it was phenomenal to note that, instead of merely calling their spanking devices "phones," Nokia now labels them "multimedia computers." Again, I was clearly a "Whoa!" me.



Made in Asia for Asians

From page C3

cause of that, it's for the once-in-a-lifetime experience. Many were just happy to be selected for the race."

"There will be enough drama on The Amazing Race Asia, according to Ricky. "It's a personal journey for everyone. They find their own

strengths and weaknesses, there are moments they wish they never have done it, they regret, they cry about it, but they find enough energy to overcome it. Everyone's story is very touching."

Allan said, "When the show

comes out, I think you will not be disappointed. You're gonna love it. After everyone watches it, they're going to want to sign up. People are really going to want to be a part of it."

And more people might just get

that opportunity.

The Amazing Race Asia promises to be the start of something big in Asian TV history. Ricky hints at the possibilities of another season. "My desire is to give more and more people the chance to do this."

As my fourth plane in three days took off again, this time headed for Manila, I only had two thoughts in my head. "I can't believe I have to wait months before the show starts" and "Dang, I better get started on my audition tape."

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

Watch out for Bayani San Diego's full stories on Allan Wu and The Amazing Race Asia in Inquirer's Entertainment Section.



Move farther into a bigger world.

Cathay Pacific moves you to over 90 destinations worldwide.



Asia Miles

It's a big world out there so it's nice to know that you can reach it all. Fly the world's best airline with great connections from Hong Kong to over 90 destinations worldwide. Cathay Pacific makes the world smaller and a lot more comfortable.

Now you're really flying.

CATHAY PACIFIC
Airline of the Year 2006

*On selected days. Airline of the Year 2006 awarded by Air Transport World and OAG.
www.cathaypacific.com

The Fab Ayala Malls welcome the Fab 5!

Ayala



FAB SIGNS • Bring your Fab 5 Books and have them autographed.

FAB TALKS • Know the latest trends in fashion, food, culture, home and grooming.

Glorietta
Activity Center
July 21, 4 - 5:30 pm
Customer Service Hotline: 752-7272

Greenbelt
Greenbelt 3 Park
July 20, 7 - 8 pm
Customer Service Hotline: 757-4853

Alabang Town Center
Activity Center
July 22, 10 - 11:30 am
Customer Service Hotline: 842-2782 / 772-1860

glorieta

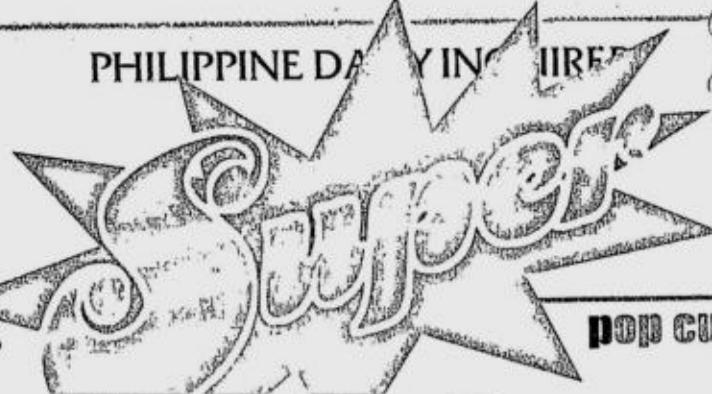
GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN



Purchase any of the Queer Eye for the Straight Guy books from Powerbooks Glorietta, Greenbelt or Alabang Town Center and get a chance to Meet & Greet the Fab 5. Please see leaflets for details. Per DIL-NCR permit No. A1-544 Series of 2006. Per DIL-NCR permit No. A2-292 Series of 2006.

style . urban living .



POP CULTURE

Popaganda!

Twentysomething director Adrian Calumpang shows how pop culture and advertising intersect

By Gino de la Paz

BY NOW, THOSE OF you who fall under the student species would've probably—or hopefully—finally settled in and gotten cozy with the business of, *ahem*, learning. Homework hangovers, sleeping-pill teachers, and growing Red Bull dependency aside, school—especially high school—is a chaotically intriguing world. Without it, teen movies as we know them wouldn't exist and peeps like Stifler, Regina George, and even Donnie Darko would've never become household names.

But now, as well, you should've almost certainly seen, hummed along with, or danced to the Rexona First Day High TV ad in all its candy-colored kaleidoscope glory. Directed by graphic designer and hotshot director Adrian Calumpang, the commercial picks up where last year's First

Day Funk campaign, headlined by Parokya ni Edgar, left off.

"I was really inspired by John Hughes films from the '80s. His movies have become archetypal of the teen genre," Adrian says. Having designed posters for the youth consultancy firm Added Value while attending school in London, he is definitely influenced by subcultures, including academic ones.

Set to a Kamikaze song, one that became a back-to-school anthem of sorts, this current Rexona advertisement presents the stereotypes you see in school. The only difference now, according to Adrian, is that there's an overlap when one speaks of high school tribes. "Now, a jock can also be smart. Or a rich, sassy kid can be nice. When I was a kid, it wasn't like that."

Despite the new-gen attitude, colors still had to be assigned to each personality type. "Since I gave it a monochromatic treatment, it was important to get the color temperature right," shares our director. Adrian admits that in creating an ad—or any product—for the mass market, compromise is inevitable. "It's an interesting process, but at the end of the day you want to come up

with something that will help the brand."

If you think about it, youth is a very mature subject. So to give everything an happy-go-lucky, urban gloss, Adrian looked to the modern art form known as the music video. "The style I used was borrowed from Hype Williams' R&B and hip-hop videos. I just

reappropriated the concept and made it quirkier with a fish eye lens. If you want to be technical about it, it's called the 2-3-5 letterbox splitscreen."

Admittedly, shooting a commercial project with a bunch of different characters in a 60 x 12 foot corridor was a challenge. "But you can't compare the re-

wards of seeing the finished product," Adrian counters. "Working with Kamikaze was a breeze since they're energetic guys who are used to being themselves. I think we cast everyone, including the extras, perfectly. It was just like being in high school again!"

And in case any of you reading this wanna make mini music

movies in the near future, Adrian throws down a few tips. "Directing a TV commercial involves a lot of problem solving. There's also a lot of waiting, which is necessary to get everything in place and to make sure you made the right decision. If you like that sort of thing, then this job is for you." (See related story on Page D4)



HOTSHOT TO WATCH. Adrian Calumpang's work has appeared in UK magazines like Arena and Dazed & Confused.

VAN HEUSEN

MIAMI • SAN FRANCISCO • LOS ANGELES

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

SALE
FROM JUNE 22 - JULY 09, 2006

50% OFF

BOUTIQUES: Festival Mall • Gateway • Men's World-Glorietta • Shangri-La Plaza • The Shops-Greenhills • SM Baguio • Batangas • Cagayan de Oro • Cebu • Clark • Davao
Mall of Asia • Manila • Megamall • Pampanga • San Lazaro • Southmall • Robinsons: Galleria • Manila • DEPT. STORES: Rustan's: Alabang Town Center • Harrison Plaza Tower • SM: Cagayan de Oro • Cebu • Cubao • Iloilo • Davao • Makati • Mall of Asia • Megamall • North Edsa • Robinsons, Bacolod • Festival • Galleria • Manila • Pioneer
Also at: Landmark • Market-Market • Metro Gaisano Cebu • OUTLET STORES: SM Sta. Mesa • Robinsons StarMalls • Riverbanks

LIONS PARK RESIDENCES

10 MINS. TO/FROM MAKATI CBD
24/7 WATER SUPPLY
1BR (30SQM) P900K
2BR (42SQM) P1 25M

**OWN A CONDOMINIUM FOR AS LOW AS P5,500/MO.
PAG-IBIG, BANK OR IN HOUSE**

VISIT OUR MODEL UNITS AT THE SITE STA. ANA DRIVE, SUN VALLEY, PARANAQUE CITY

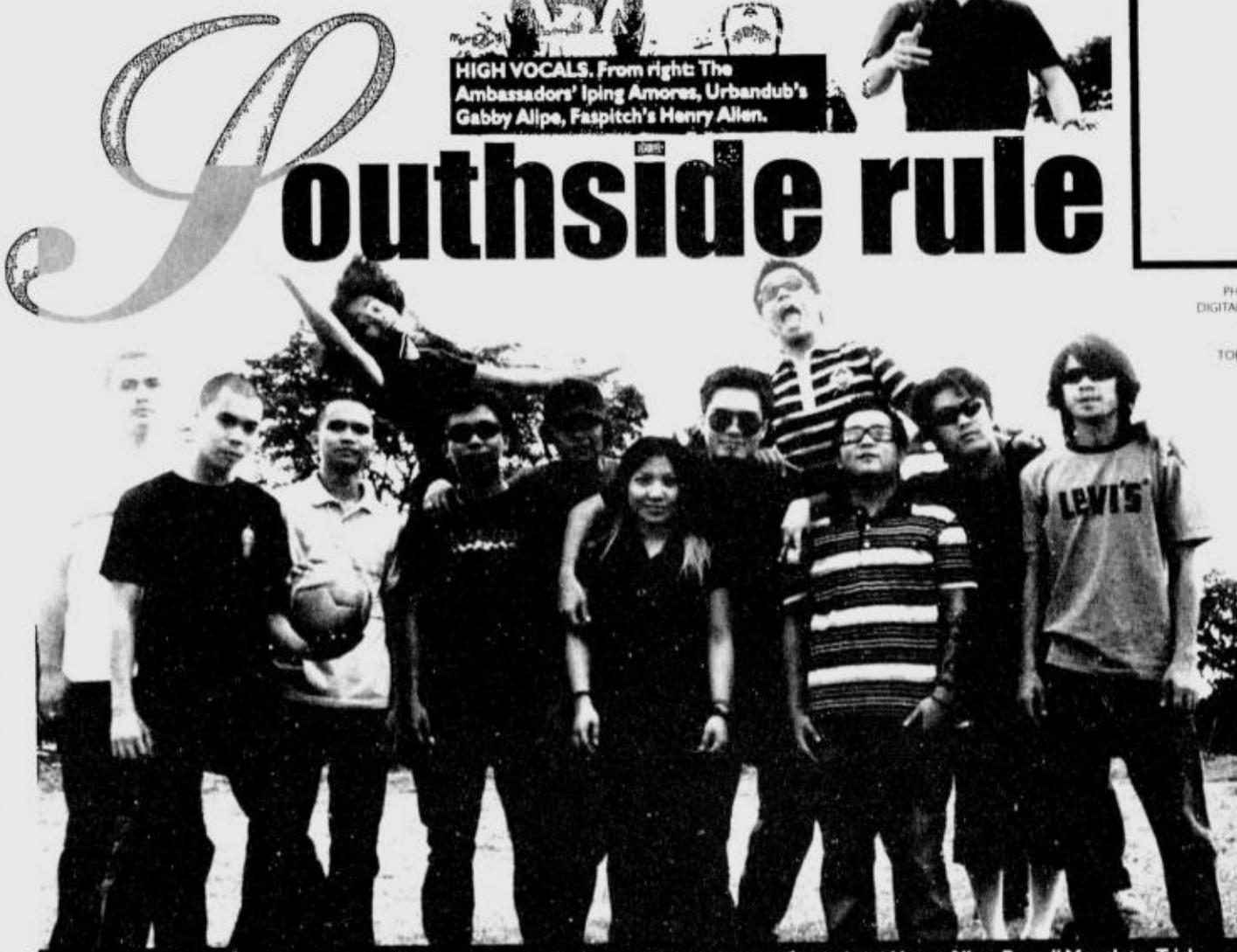
PLEASE CALL US TODAY ~ **894-5568**

www.healthyoptions.com.ph

Eat good, live bad longer. Whatever lifestyle you choose, it's always a good choice to be healthy with our pure, natural and organic products.

healthy OptionsTM
better choices | better life

Forget the offside rule, Cebuano bands aren't playing under FIFA regulations



HIGH VOCALS. From right: The Ambassadors' Iping Amores, Urbandub's Gabby Alipe, Faspitch's Henry Allen.

Youthsiderule

THE AMBASSADORS are Iping Amores, Bai Nunez, Joseph Agura, and Dennis Suarez. **Faspitch** are Henry Allen, Russell Manaloto, Trick, Trevor Bicknel, and Pacco "Peekaboo" Manreal. **Urbandub** are Gabby Alipe, John Dinopol, Lalay Lim, and John Mendoza.

By Pepe Diokno

LESS THAN A YEAR AGO, I WENT TO Cebu to go to a party-slash-concert. I was looking forward to it cause I thought I'd see my favorite Manila bands play in Cebu. And that, you know, is a thrill. Whee.

You can imagine how I freaked out when I saw the line-up and did not recognize a single act. I felt like a foreigner—people started speaking to me in Bisaya, and I nearly ran out of the place.

I didn't, of course, cause the place was packed and I didn't know how to say "excuse me" in Bisaya. But I'll tell ya, it was a good thing I stayed.

There's an active music scene in Cebu. You can probably even go there just to see bands perform. It's a scene full of creativity and spirit. They're making music loud enough for people around the country to hear.

A prime example is Urbandub, who Manila audiences are familiar with. They recently had their first major release, "Embrace", and are enjoying major airplay.

Other Cebuano bands are nearing the nationwide radar, like The Ambassadors and Faspitch.

The Ambassadors are a fun band and they are starting to make waves in the capital as well.

Faspitch just released their first album, "The Future of Ear Repair." Their "hardcore screamyourearsoff music with elements of hip hop and chill stuff" is steadily gaining a following.

I got to sit down with Lalay Lim (Urbandub's bassist), Henry Allen (Faspitch's vocalist), and Bai Nunez (guitars and vocals for The Ambassadors) for a Superl interview.

Did you guys go to music school?

Henry (Faspitch): No. But most of us have taken lessons at some point in our lives.

Bai (Ambassadors): No.

Lalay (Urbandub): No. We were all self-taught.

When did music start taking up most of your lives?

Henry: We all started getting influenced by music at really young ages, but never really participated in actually music-making until around high school level.

Bai: Yeah, highschool, too.

How has your sound changed through the years?

Henry: We've gotten more conscious of the dynamics of the song and the arrangement styles that we want for it. I see us experimenting with a lot of different things in the future.

Bai: We don't really know how our sound has changed through the years. We don't know where our sound is going either!

Lalay: We've really matured. Lyrically, musically, I think it's just that as you keep making music, you get to know what it is you want.

You're an independent band. Is "independence" a concern you have when it comes to signing with a major record label?

Bai: Yes.

Henry: We've never actually thought of that. If such a situation does arise, independence would be a concern, yeah. We kinda like it the way it is now though.

Lalay: Well, we just had our first major release under EMI. We're very happy. We were able to keep our indie spirit. We produced the record ourselves, we got to do it in Cebu. We were just given a budget. EMI gave us freedom.

SOUTHSIDE/D4



IDB



PHOTOS BY VINCENT BOCALING
DIGITAL ENHANCEMENT BY PEPE DIOKNO
MAKE-UP BY GAYL PORTER
SPECIAL THANKS TO
TORY'S SPORTS ARENA, GLORIETTA.

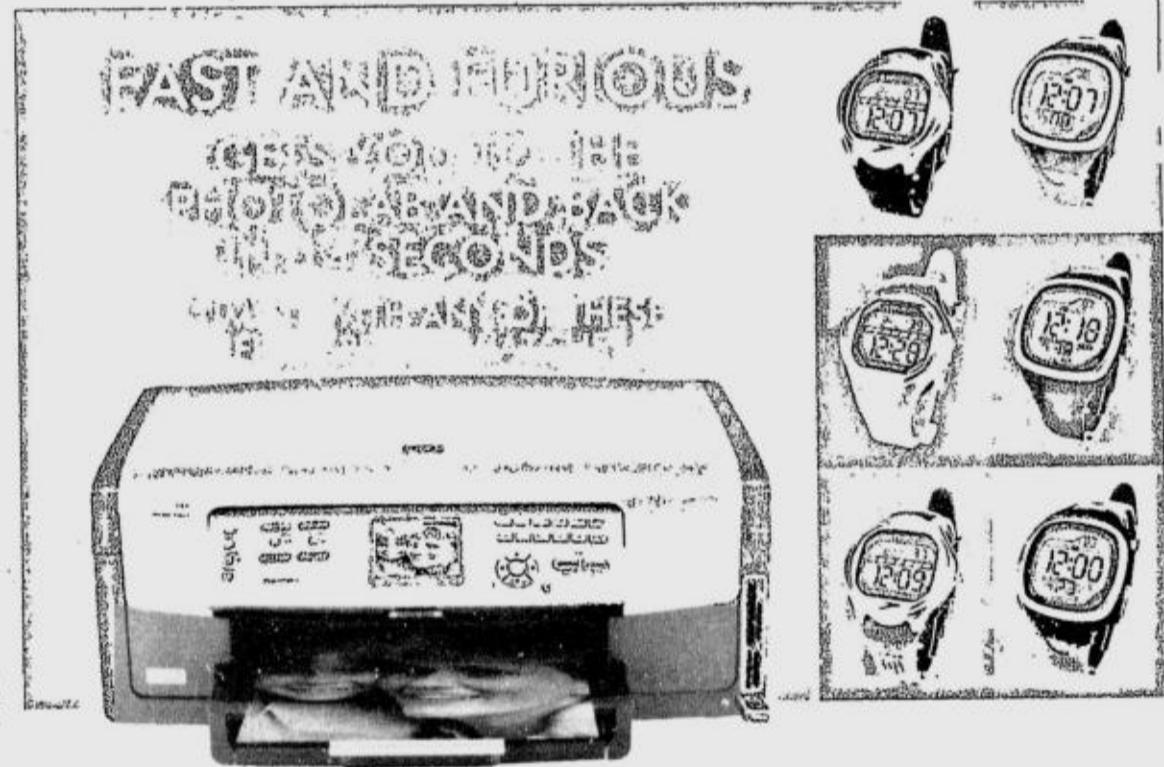
k o m o d o

HardWood furniture
indoor & outdoor



"20% OFF ON ALL ITEMS"
PROMO PERIOD: JULY 8 - 30, 2006

www.komodo-online.com
126 FMF COMPOUND, PIONEER ST., MANDALUYONG CITY TELEFAX: 636-3640
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A3-0454 SERIES OF 2006



Get your prints faster with the HP Photosmart 3110 All-in-One. Now you no longer have to sacrifice speed in favor of having built-in capabilities of a printer, scanner, copier and a fax machine. With the HP Photosmart 3110 All-in-One, print 4 in. x 6 in. (10.16cm x 15.24cm) color photos in as little as 14 seconds with brilliant HP Vivera Inks. And for a limited time, get a Speedo digital watch (worth P1,800) with every purchase of any participating HP Printer.** Now extended until July 31, 2006.



P13,490 HP PHOTOSMART 7830 PHOTO PRINTER

• Up to 4800 optimized dpi color printing
• Fast printing speed of 22 ppm (black) or 21 ppm (color)
• 4x 6 in. (10.16cm x 15.24cm) print speed: 21 seconds
• HP PhotoJet 4 Color Imaging Technology (6 ink colors)
• 4800 optimized dpi
• Connectivity: PrintBridge, Bluetooth (optional) and memory card slots



P16,190 HP PHOTOSMART 2610 ALL-IN-ONE

• Printer, scanner, copier, fax
• Up to 4800 optimized dpi color printing
• Prints and copies at up to 30 ppm (black) or 20 ppm (color)
• HP PhotoJet 3 / HP PhotoJet 4 (with optional 6-ink color printing)
• 2.5 in. x 10.35cm color graphic display
• Commercial & individual use cartridges - ideal for high volume photo and text printing

P19,090 HP PHOTOSMART 3110 ALL-IN-ONE

• Printer, scanner, copier, fax
• Up to 4800 optimized dpi color printing
• Prints and copies at up to 32 ppm (black) or 31 ppm (color)
• Integrated color fax with caller ID and junk fax barrier
• 2.5 in. LCD (6.35cm) LCD screen colour graphics display
• Direct photo printing - PrintBridge, Bluetooth and memory card slots

• Multi slot memory card reader (Compact Flash Type I & II, Memory Stick SD/MMC/Secure Digital/AMC, Smart Media and xD Picture Card)

P8,990 HP OFFICEJET 4255 ALL-IN-ONE

• Printer, scanner, copier, fax
• Up to 4800 optimized dpi color printing
• Prints and copies at up to 10 ppm (black) or 12 ppm (color)
• HP PhotoJet 3 / HP PhotoJet 4 (with optional 6-ink color printing)
• 45 minutes (4x 6 in.) printing & copying on photo paper
• Scan up to 600 x 1200 dpi resolution/7.30 ft.
20 page AIO and fax



P10,190 HP OFFICEJET 5610 ALL-IN-ONE

• Printer, scanner, copier, fax
• Up to 4800 optimized dpi colour printing and 10 ppm (black)
• Prints and copies at up to 29 ppm (black) or 23 ppm (color)
• 1200 sheet input tray
• HP PhotoJet 3 / HP PhotoJet 4 (with optional 6-ink color printing)
• 2.6 in. LCD screen
• Scan up to 1200 x 1200 dpi optical resolution/48 bit
25 page AIO and fax

P11,490 HP OFFICEJET PRO K550 COLOR PRINTER

• Lower black cost per page of the world's fastest desktop color printer
• Up to 37 ppm black, 33 ppm color
• 250 sheet input tray
• Up to 7500 pages per month
• Up to 4800 x 1200 optimized dpi
• High capacity individual ink cartridges
• Built-in Ethernet network capability
• Optional Bluetooth connectivity (wireless photo printing)

**Get a free Speedo watch when you purchase any of these HP Printers:

HP Photosmart 7830 / 8230 Photo Printer, HP Officejet 4255 / 5610 / 7210 All-in-One, HP Business Officejet Pro K550 Color Printer, HP Designjet 460cb Mobile Printer, HP Photosmart 2610 / 3110 All-in-One

speedo

©2006 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. The HP Contact Center is available Monday thru Friday 8:30 to 5:30pm. *Speed comparison in default and fastest modes, when printing from a computer based upon an external testing of competitive consumer photo printing products as of April 2005. Up to 4800 x 1200 optimized dpi color when printing from a computer and 1200 input dpi. Print and copy speeds may vary according to the complexity of the document and type of output device. Not included purchase separately. **Dependent upon document type and print mode. Approximate figures. Exact speed will vary depending on the system configuration, software program and document complexity.

1-800-1441-6688
or (632) 867-3557
ph.contact@hp.com





SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2006

Cram Session

Super cornered the Rexona First Day High 5 and quizzed them on personal highs, lows, and stuff in between

BOYZ QUIZON

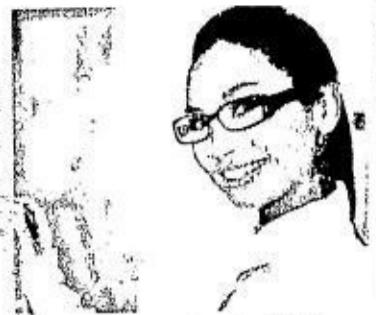


What do you do? I'm an actor. I also have a band called Biyaheng Reggae.

Your most memorable "first"?

It was Valentine's Day and I went to pick up my date in Makati. But my driver parked near a trash site so my car reeked of wet garbage. I wasn't able to make any restaurant reservation so my date and I ended up hiring a cab and celebrated our Valentine's Day in Tagaytay!

A "first" you'd rather forget? THAT Valentine's Day.



What do you do? TV host for "Breakfast," model

First job? I was a court side reporter for the Ateneo Basketball team during the UAAP.

High school high? The JS Prom because I was voted prom queen!

Little known fact about yourself? I love chocolate! I eat chocolate when I study because I feel it stimulates my brain.



What do you do? I'm a freshman in UP taking up Law

Your most memorable "first"?

The first and only time I was a Dean's Lister in Ateneo. My parents were really happy.

Little known fact about yourself?

I can eat squash seeds real fast, I can move my ears, and I can hyper extend my elbows!



What do you do? Studied medicine

What's your most memorable "first"?

My first time to play basketball. I was really excited and I got to play with my dad.

Little known fact about yourself?

I live on a curve because I have a habit of driving on the left side of the road but I'm trying to fix it.



What do you do? Production manager

What's your most memorable "first"?

My first time to play basketball. Ateneo won a championship. I was really happy because I was proud to be part of the team and I wanted to bring home a trophy!



Southside rule

From page D3

What's the best thing someone's ever said about your work?

Henry: Whether someone sends me a long-winded message about how nice our album was or just a short "you guys are great" message it's still an awesome feeling inside.

Lalay: We have a group of fans who go to our gigs, and they gave us all shirts! I think that says a lot.

What are the differences between Manila audiences and Visayan audiences?

Bai: Visayans are hard to please!

Henry: I think mostly the Manila audience is a bit more participative. Cebuanos love to listen, it's just what they do, they listen to your music and you can tell they are really listening.

Lalay: Manila audiences are more expressive. Visayan audiences are more reserved. But in other provinces, audiences are really wild—I think it's because they're deprived.

What do you think about getting your music available through the internet?

Bai: Online music sharing is cool.

Henry: I think for bands like us, who are just starting out and trying to build a name for ourselves, it's a great opportunity. It's something we can't pass up.

Lalay: Music streaming is a big help. But downloading is another question.

Do you think Filipino bands have the potential to go Asia-wide, or world-wide? What do you think is keeping us?

Henry: Filipino bands can conquer the world! There is so much talent just waiting to be unleashed from this country. I think we just need to conquer that crab mentality many of us have. For me that's the reason many Filipinos, not just bands, have a hard time making it big internationally.

Lalay: I think it's a question of trying. Cause we can do it, we just need to try.

What are the problems facing Visayan bands at the moment?

Henry: There aren't enough venues to play at down here. Bands down here would be lucky to get three gigs in a month, whereas up in Manila you could do three gigs in one night.

Bai: Yes, gigs and venues.

What are the advantages of being a Visayan band?

Henry: Well, because there's so little to do down here bands just keep on practicing. Practice, practice, make music, maybe play a gig or two, then practice some more, that's how we keep ourselves together down here.

Bai: Being able to sing Visayan songs!

What can you say to bands who are far from the "centers" of the country?

Henry: I say just keep on working hard. Believe in yourselves and the music you make and everything will eventually fall into place.

Lalay: You have to keep trying. Leave your comfort zones. Yes, it's unavoidable to leave the place you're based in if you want to go far, but you have to take risks. It's hard work, but if you love music, that's all you need.

What are your goals?

Bai: We're going to rock and roll!

Lalay: Um, maybe just to make it around Asia. That's reachable, I think.

Henry: I want to win a Grammy.

For more information, visit Lighter Records' website at <http://lighterrecords.multiply.com>

SUPERMAN RETURNS

NOW SHOWING

www.supermanreturns-asia.com

biggest return and will be



FREE SUPERMAN Downloads

(Logo, picture message or ringtone) when you buy any Load or minutes

Only one free download per day per mobile number.



Get a Movie Ticket!

Simply use your SMART Money Mobile Payment. Text <storecode> space <amount> to 270 Ex. SUPERMAN011

CINEMAS

Text SUPERMAN to 239

To get the SUPERMAN tune and subscribe to weekly tunes

For Polyphones. Text SUPERMAN 239. P1/min

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3111, Series of 2006.



The best things in life are free

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME